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A-Level standards 'maintained' in Bridgend county borough 'STRONG PERFORMANCE ACROSS ALL LEVELS'



Eternity with Love
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Sunday 3rd
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The standard of A-Level results across Bridgend county borough has been maintained, with large numbers of students gaining high grades, said a spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

He continued:

"Following significant

improvements achieved in 2016, the total number of students who passed their A-Levels for 2017 was 98.3 per cent, 77.7 percent of whom achieved grades A* through to C."

"Bridgend county borough students also performed highly across all levels:

- A* - E: 98.3 per cent against a Wales average of 75.3 per cent.
- A* - A: 22.4 per cent against a Wales average of 25 per cent.
- A* - C: 76.7 per

cent against a Wales average of 75.3 per cent.

- A* - E: 98.3 per cent against a Wales average of 75.3 per cent.

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for education and regeneration, said: "This year's results have demonstrated strong performance across all levels.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

Happy 90th celebration for Pietro and family!



Pietro Sidoli (front row, left) celebrates his 90th birthday with his family. Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan.

IT was an Italian family occasion recently when Pietro (Peter) Sidoli of Porthcawl celebrated his 90th birthday.

The family run 'Pietro's' on the seafront, and also Sidoli's cafe on the corner of John Street and Well Street.

Local historian Keith E Morgan told The GEM: "I believe Pietro to be related by marriage to Giacomo

Bracci, who is widely recognised to be the pioneer of the Italian ice-cream and confectionery shops in south Wales.

"Bracci became the synonym for the Italian café in the area and they were all generally referred to as 'Bracci Shops' - without which no township in Glamorgan or Monmouth was complete."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

THEODORE SONS & DAUGHTERS
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Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People Para Dance Club



Every Thursday 11am - 1pm from September 7th

Pencoed Social Club, Hendre Road, Pencoed
Contact 07971 497439

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters **BRIEF** and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL. Tel: 01446 774484 or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Last year a reader asked if I was prepared to tax us 7p per cent. This is a good area and I say is not the best for the environment to families.

Some people are not yet aware that the 7p per cent. This is a good area and I say is not the best for the environment to families.

Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'South Wales needs rail electrification'

TWO years ago, my wife and I were on a platform at Cardiff Central and as a train pulled away, we were engulfed in diesel fumes.

It was very unpleasant and we were not pleased. I reminded my wife that a new era of pollution free electric trains were on the horizon for Cardiff, Swansea and the Valleys.

Now following recent Government announcements, it's 'back to the future.' It seems that 'duty diesel' will remain with us. What a let down!

Bi-Mode is the 'in' word; dual powered electric motor and a diesel engine plus a fuel tank, as fast as an electric-only powered train.

My fears for electrification were raised last autumn when the UK Rail Minister announced that

electrification would not be extended into Bristol Temple Meads, but electrification will reach Blackpool north, the constituency of the Rail Minister!

Now Chris Grayling, the UK Transport Minister, has informed us that the Cardiff/Swansea electrification has been scrapped, saying: "It's costly and disruptive."

Chris Elmore MP was right when he said that this is a betrayal – particularly when a few days later, Chris Grayling announced that approval will be given for Cross Rail 2, total cost of £30 billion.

There are other projects for the south east of England; HS2, £50 billion and Waterloo being remodelled with new trains and extended platforms.

Chris Elmore pointed out that firm promises were given for south Wales, but Mr Grayling had

other plans for his own back yard. So why has there been so much contradiction and deception from the UK Government?

Then there are the delays to the electrification project. Brunel constructed his railway with men who had nothing but shovels, wheelbarrows and their bare hands. Network Rail cannot even string a few wires together.

For too long, the west of England and south Wales have received 'fag ends' in rail investment.

Another £2 billion is nothing to the public purse. We need the electrification for south Wales now, not just to Cardiff. In the meantime, I shall stand on the platform of my local station wearing a protective mask.

Trevor Spill,
Llantwit Major.

'Thank you to all'

THROUGH your newspaper, I would like to thank all those who helped me on Friday, August 11, when I was taken ill in Porthcawl.

Many thanks must go to the lady from B&M, Mary Tashara, Val, and the bus driver, Mike, of the 63B, who took his bus out of service; also the ambulance men.

Thank you, once again, to everyone. Lesley Davies.

Bridgend Quiz League teasers

WHAT fruit is used to make original Grenadine?

In the USA, what is the well-known name of the Will Rogers Highway?

On TV, by what name is Leigh Francis better known?

The 2017/2018 season will commence on Monday, September 4 with the Muriel Williams quiz and team registration event to be held at Tondu Railway Club starting at 8pm.

There will be a free to enter, open to all, general knowledge quiz with a buffet provided. Why not come along and see what we are all about, there is no obligation to join the League.

More info on bridgendquiz.com

Steve Kingscott
(Secretary BDQI)
01656 722754

Answers:
Pomegranate.
Route 99.
Keith Lemon.

'Newsnight debater was typical of majority in Wales'

SO the *Newsnight* debate on the Welsh language could have done with a more thorough analysis, but what was sadly lost in the aftermath was the perfectly sound decision by the Welsh Government to replace a single-person commissioner for the Welsh language with a larger and more representative Commission for the Welsh language – a welcome and progressive move.

Certainly the interviewee – seemingly defending the language – didn't show why that role should have fallen to her, nor did she bring glory on her organisation, which was presumably why she was there.

So yes, *Newsnight* could well have found a more robust debater for

the Welsh corner.

But at least she was typical of the vast majority of people in Wales who respect the language but who cannot, do not want to, and do not feel they should, speak Welsh.

People who might well go along with the swiftly-targeted Julian Ruck when he said many would not really appreciate NHS services suffering cuts in face of a perceived unassailable language budget.

I do hope this does not provide another byway to take focus away from the new commission.

Dr Jean Silvan Evans, Peterston-super-Ely.

GEM NOTE:

The BBC has since admitted it was wrong to select two non-Welsh speakers to debate this contentious subject live on air.

Keepmoat Regeneration opens new office

HOUSING and regeneration specialist Keepmoat Regeneration, part of the ENGIE Group, is celebrating the opening of a new office in Bridgend, as its expansion across south Wales continues.

A raft of recent major contract wins – including new housing projects worth £28 million for Wales' largest registered social landlord Pobl Group – has meant that the contractor has outgrown its former base in Cardiff.

Keepmoat Regeneration also recently completed an £8m development in Talbot Green, Rhondda Cynon Taf, for Hafod Care Association, and last month refurbished the 1,000th home of a £25m partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Edward Rees, regional director at Keepmoat Regeneration, said: "We're delighted to be making the move to our new home in Bridgend. This is a significant



Edward Rees,
regional director.

milestone for Keepmoat Regeneration, and one that reinforces our commitment to south Wales and our substantial growth plans for the region over the next few years.

"We have a great team and this new base will stand us in good stead to continue working with our partners to improve their existing housing stock, as well as creating much-needed new affordable homes."

Around 40 per cent of Keepmoat Regeneration's staff force in the region is made up of apprentices and trainees. AS

Rotary Club presents the Harvey Palmer award



Mel James (left) receives his trophy.

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend welcomed Mel James and his wife to its evening meeting on August 7 to present him with the club's Harvey Palmer award.

The club paid tribute to the dedication of Mr James to his sport and particularly to his work in organising the Cross Country League, which is encouraging very many local youngsters to take part in athletics.

If you wish to find more about Rotary, contact www.rotary.org.uk or the secretary of the club, on 01656 652181.

RH

Civic service in Maesteg



Coun Idris Williams and the Mayoress, Sally Williams. Photo by Phil Davies www.scenicgallery.shop

THE Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Idris Williams and Mayoress Sally Williams, attended Civic Sunday at Our Lady & St Patrick's Catholic Church.

"The service," said a spokesperson, "was celebrated to bless the mayor and members of the council for the work they are elected to carry out for the members of the community, together with thanking the organisations and charities for the work and commitment throughout the year."

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL AUGUST 31)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point

will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
24 Thur	09.01	10.2	21.19	10.1
25 Fri	09.41	10.0	21.56	9.8
26 Sat	10.13	9.6	22.31	9.5
27 Sun	10.49	9.1	23.04	8.9
28 Mon	11.25	8.6	23.41	8.2
29 Tues			12.07	8.1
30 Wed	00.28	7.9	12.59	7.6
31 Thur	01.34	7.4	14.27	7.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.



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Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen pupils celebrate A-Level results



Sharif Curtis, Holly Jenkins, Gavin Howe, Joe Allen, Daisy Faulker, Owen Jones, Amy Leverton.

PUPILS of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, and their parents and teachers, are celebrating what headteacher Nick Brain described as "an outstanding set of A-Level examination results".

He said: "All the commitment, hard work and dedication from students has culminated in the excellent results achieved."

Results included: Joe Allen 1A*, 1A and 1B; Ffion Blaikie 2A, 1B and 1C; Jessica Dunn 1A, 3B; Sophie Griffiths 3B; achieved at A*-E and more than 60 per cent Lauren Morgan 1A*, 1A, 2B, 1C.

"We are really proud of the achievements of

our pupils.

"Staff and governors would like to congratulate all our pupils and wish them the very best of luck in the future."

Mr Brain said that 97

per cent of grades were

incredibly hard and can now look forward to pupils in their chosen careers.



Ffion Gronnow, Cerys Osbourne, Gemma O'Brien, Amelia Swetman and Jessica Dunn.

Pencoed Comprehensive School celebrates 'fantastic' results



P E N C O E D of results."

Comprehensive School pupils are, said a school spokesperson, celebrating a "fantastic" set of A-Level results, with all 56 students entering receiving awards.

"This year sees the first set of results for the exciting new partnership between the school and Bridgend College in the formation of Penybont Sixth Form College. Overall results have improved significantly this year," said the spokesperson.

The overall pass rate increased to over 98 per cent and almost 20 per cent of grades were at A* and A grades.

There were, reportedly, many smiling faces as virtually all students who applied for higher education places had the grades to confirm their places in September.

The spokesperson said: "There were many superb individual sets

These included:

Grace Shaughnessy gaining three A* grades in English, RE and Spanish and an A in the Welsh Baccalaureate. She is going to read English Literature and English Language at Merton College, Oxford University.

Cameron Fyvie-Davies achieving three A grades in chemistry, physics and mathematics.

Jessica Griffiths gaining an A* in geography and an A* in the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Thomas Rowlands achieving an A* in chemistry and an A grade in physics.

Isabelle Bushrod gaining an A* in PE and an A in the Welsh Baccalaureate.

India Howells achieving two A grades in business studies and in the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Jamie Powell achieving two A grades in English and in the Welsh

Baccalaureate.

The school spokesperson added that there were "exceptional performances in individual subjects, which were attained by a number of pupils."

These include:

Rhiannon Evans (A* in RE),

Ciaran Howard (A* in art), Lucy Anthony (A in Welsh Bacc), Megan Coles (A in psychology), Niamh Cooper (A in English), Megan Fry (A in Welsh Bacc), Chloe Harding-Jones (A in Welsh Bacc), Natalie Richards (A in Welsh Bacc), Ella Roberts (A in English), Jacob Wensley (A in art), Katy Williams (A in business studies), Ethan Young (A in geography).

The spokesperson concluded by

saying: "Congratulations to all students of the Pencoed Comprehensive School class of 2017 for a superb set of results."

'SECRET' SOCIETY OPENS ITS DOORS IN PORTHCAWL

A 'SECRET' society will be opening its doors to residents in Porthcawl as the Freemasons try to tackle any myths and misapprehensions that people may have about it.

In light of the interest generated by the recent Sky 1 Documentary, *Inside the Freemasons*, and as part of the celebrations of 300 years of Freemasonry, Porthcawl Freemasons will be opening their Masonic Hall for viewing.

A spokesman said: "We are extending a warm welcome to all to come and meet us. The open days are free, along with refreshments, and open to all members of the public who

are interested in finding out more about Freemasons, what they stand for and what they do in your local community.

"If you would like to call in, have a look around, or listen to a short talk please just pop in anytime between 11am and 4pm on Saturday, September 9, or on Saturday, September 23.

"Talks on Freemasonry in general will take place at 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm, followed by a question and answer session.

"We are situated in New Road, Porthcawl, CF62 5DG under the archway next to and at the rear of Happy Tails Dog Grooming Parlour."

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The Old School, Sully.

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This months class is creating a puffed triangle pendant. Class cost £10 to include pattern, choice of patterns, beadpacks available or you can bring your own 11/0 Delicas.

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Delight at Porthcawl Comprehensive School over 'amazing' A-Level results!



ABOVE: Lauren Ellis-Stretch.



ABOVE: Sultaan Azam and father.

AT Porthcawl Comprehensive School, staff were "delighted" with the A-Level results.

A school spokeswoman reported: "This year, 127 students sat an amazing 352 qualifications. The most remarkable fact is the quality of the A-Level results; the pass rate (A* to E) was a fantastic 99 per cent, with 28 per cent A/A*."

"This outstanding performance underlines Porthcawl as a truly inclusive school. Students have reached, and in most cases exceeded, their potential."

She continued: "Students at AS and A2 have had their endeavour rewarded with excellent results. There is a large debt of gratitude for teachers who have worked so hard once again this year and for parents who have supported their sons and daughters."

"Excellent results truly reflect the effective partnership between a school, its learners and the support from home."

"There were many stand-out performers, with 13 students gaining 3As or better at A-Level. There were exceptional performances from Sultaan Azam with 4A*, Lauren Ellis-Stretch with 3A* and one A, and Caitlin Whiteley with 3A*."

"The school is delighted that this year, two pupils have gained places at Cambridge University. Alexandra Hunt gained 2A* and one A and will read Veterinary Science at Pembroke College, and Lydia Pickett achieved 2A* and one A and will take up her place at St Catharine's College to read Medicine."

"Sultaan Azam also goes on to study Medicine at Cardiff University."

Headteacher Mr Slade commented that this excellent series of results will ensure Porthcawl students have secured places at some of the best universities in the country. He congratulated staff and students, who were praised for their hard work and steadfast dedication.

Mr Slade concluded that the results were especially impressive, given the large size of the entry, with well over 1,000 being sat at A-Level.

"The following departments performed exceptionally, with pass rates 85 per cent or above (A* to C): Business Studies, Chemistry, Electronics, Mathematics, History, Sociology, English, Drama, Music and Physical Education."

The following year-13 pupils performed exceptionally well at A-Level:

Anna Arrieta – four As; Sultaan Azam – four A*; Lauren Ellis-Stretch – three A* and one A; Alexandra Hunt – two A* and one A; Elin Morris – one A* and two As; Isobel Overton – one A* and two As; Lydia Pickett – two A* and one A; Hannah Robertson – one A* and two As; Sarah Spencer – one A* and two As; Benjamin White – three As; Caitlin Whiteley – three A*; Katie Williams – one A* and two As; Sarah Williams – one A* and two As.



ABOVE: Lydia Pickett and Mum.



ABOVE: Sultaan Azam, Lydia Pickett and Alex Hunt.



A delighted Sarah Spencer.



Katie Williams is pleased with her results.



Hannah Robertson.



Caitlin Whiteley and Mrs O'Brien.

Consider a career in health!

SCHOOL leavers collecting exam results this month are being invited to consider a career in health care, as ABMU gets set to recruit its latest apprentices.

Since launching apprenticeships for the first time last September, the health board scheme has gone from strength to strength.

There are now 41 apprentices, ranging in age from 17 to 38, at varying stages of training working in a wide variety of departments.

Apprenticeships are a way of giving people a chance to learn new skills while gaining nationally recognised qualifications and being paid at an apprentice rate. It also provides a close-up look at the health service and the many career opportunities it offers.

At a special workshop, organised by ABMU apprentices team at Morriston Hospital, the current trainees have been sharing their experiences of what

it's like to be an apprentice.

Alexandra Perry, who is an apprentice physiotherapy assistant at Princess of Wales Hospital, says it has been a valuable stepping stone on her career path.

"I work on Ward 2, the stroke ward, and basically assist the physiotherapists with looking after the patients, carry out transfers assessments and general duties."

"I am hoping to go on to university to do a physiotherapy degree and it's given me a really good idea of what it entails – I'll know what the job's about because I have experienced it."

The Apprentice Recruitment Days will take place from 11am to 3pm on Friday, August 25 in Lecture Theatre 2 at Morriston Hospital Education Centre, and in the Lecture Hall, Education Centre, Neath Port Talbot Hospital. To find out more, email abm.apprenticeships@wales.nhs.uk. To apply for the apprenticeships go to jobs.abm.wales.nhs.uk.

BRYNTLEG SCHOOL DELIGHT OVER 'OUTSTANDING' A-LEVEL RESULTS



Pictured (LEFT) are: Max Brennan, Ellie Butcher, Ayisha Dyer, Courtney Edwards, Thomas Exton, Adam Hogan, Daniel Jenkins, Harvey Jones, Ellie MacGregor, Amy Morgan, Shivani Potnis, Hannah Pottinger, Eliza Scott-Thomas, Carys Sheard, Emily Stimpson, Brogan Thomas, Gabriella Wilde and Emily Williams.

COMMENTING on this year's A-Level results, Brynteg School's headteacher, David Jenkins, said: "We are delighted with the results, which once again reflect the hard work of pupils and staff at Brynteg."

"These results build on the school's long tradition of academic excellence in the Sixth Form, with some outstanding individual results."

The vast majority of our pupils are now looking forward to attending their first choice of university.

"Naturally, we wish all of our pupils every success for the future."

Another record year of A-Level results for Bryntirion Comprehensive School



BRYNTIRION Comprehensive School, said a school spokesperson, enjoyed another record set of A-Level results on August 17.

The statement continued: "It gives staff great pleasure to congratulate our pupils on their hard work in achieving such an outstanding set of results."

"A record number of our pupils will be moving onto university and we wish them every success after such a record-breaking year."

The school reported that some 29 per cent of the examinations sat by pupils achieved an A* or A grade whilst 82 per

cent of entries achieved an A-C grade.

The highest achieving A-Level pupils in the year group are: Iwan Caudy; Scot Hawtin; Fionn Luke; Lloyd Cleary-Richards; Nia Workman; Eleri Harry; Tom Jenkins; and Polly Smith.

Each of the students listed above has achieved at least three A grades in their A-Level studies.

Iwan Caudy and head girl Eleri Harry have both gained places at Oxford University, with Iwan choosing to read chemistry and Eleri going on to study

history, whilst head boy Scot Hawtin has secured a place to read dentistry at Plymouth University.

Headteacher Nick Brain commented: "It is pleasing to report outstanding results from all pupils."

"This performance reflects a strong commitment by pupils, parents and teachers to achieve academic results of the highest standard."

"As a school, we wish to congratulate everyone, and wish each pupil good luck and success for the future."

SELECTION BOX CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE BEST

A SHOP in Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, has been recognised as one of the top independent stores in the UK, following an in-store assessment by the Independent Achievers Academy (IAA).

Selection Box is named on the IAA Top 100 list, which celebrates the continuing success of independent shops across the UK. The assessment is based on shops achieving excellence in

serving their local shoppers across 12 core principles of retailing.

Shop owner Sandra Tickner, said: "I'm over the moon to make the IAA Top 100 for the second time. "Me and my team have worked hard to achieve this and it's great to be recognised for providing such a good service to our community."

Commenting on the event, he said: "This was yet another amazing year for the show: outstanding produce, flowers, art work, a culinary section – and much more."

For the full list of the IAA Top 100 retailers in the UK, visit betterRetailing.com/IAA-Top-100.

'Another amazing year for horticultural show'

CHRIS Elmore, MP for Ogmore, praised the Llanharan Horticultural Show.

Commenting on the event, he said: "This was yet another amazing year for the show: outstanding produce, flowers, art work, a culinary section – and much more."



Beets, marrows and flowers, but not a turnip to be seen.

This year's show was the 48th successive display of horticultural excellence to be hosted in Llanharan and saw competitors from the surrounding areas compete for an array of prizes.

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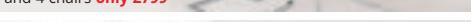
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**AS SEEN
ON TV**

MAESTEG SCHOOL PUPILS ACHIEVE 'OUTSTANDING' A-LEVEL SUCCESSES...



MAESTEG School pupils, said a spokesperson, have celebrated outstanding successes in last Thursday's A-Level results, marking "yet another year of excellent academic and personal achievements."

She continued: "This is a real testament to how pupils at Maesteg School are prepared to be lifelong learners, with the skills required to succeed at higher education."

She listed the following pupils and their ambitions: Sarah Sayce achieved 1 A* and 3 A grades and will go on to study Law at the University of Bristol.

Saffron Thomas achieved 2 A* and 1A, to study Art and Design at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Kieran Hood achieved 1A* 2As and will study Physics at Swansea University.

Aled Batchelor achieved 1A* and 3As, to study Biochemistry at the Imperial College London.

Kieran Collins achieved 3As to pursue Physics at the University of Bristol.

Naomi Edwards will read Business and Accounting at Exeter after achieving 3As.

Mollie James-Smith will study Fashion Marketing Management at Cardiff Metropolitan University after gaining 1A*, 1A and 1B.

Olivia Thomas will read Professional Dance and Musical Theatre after gaining 1A* and 1A and 1Bs.

"We are pleased to see so many of our pupils gaining places at some of the country's top universities.

"These results reflect the dedication of our staff, parents and governors to raise the aspirations of our pupils so that they strive to achieve their very best and compete with the best also.

"They have been an asset to the school community and real ambassadors for what we stand for. Well done to all."

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Trauma of Monte Cassino has echoes in plight of military veterans today

DECIDING to review the Battle of Monte Cassino with a World War Two historian may not be everyone's way of starting a summer break...

It is what I chose to do for three days in the company of a small number of MPs and Peers who take an interest in defence. Understanding the decisions of military commanders and their outcomes, is important; and, as ever, history has much to teach us.

The Battle of Monte Cassino broke two cardinal rules of warfare. Don't fight north to south and do not start a campaign in winter. The allies felt they had no option to break the rules, but a heavy price was paid, with over 105,000 killed in four campaigns lasting from December 1943 to May 1944.

The monastery of Monte Cassino was built in 529 and held a commanding view over the surrounding countryside. In December 1943, the Germans made an agreement with the Vatican that the monastery would not be occupied by their troops. The allies did not believe such a commanding position would not be used, and bombed it several times in February 1944.

The Germans then moved into the rubble, which gave cover and protection from which to attack the valley below, most effectively with sniper fire.

We talk of coalition warfare a great deal today but we have always fought in coalitions. Divisions from New Zealand, India, Gurkhas from Nepal, Canada, America, South Africa, France, Morocco, Italy, Poland and the UK fought in the long and bloody battle through bitter cold, snow, driving rain and with virtually no shelter. Some divisions had losses as high as 80 per cent.

There are so many lessons to be learned from this one battle. Talking to an old man who as a small boy had hidden in the caves nearby as the battle raged around them, highlighted the horrors faced by starving civilians. The old man's village

Porthcawl Male Choir goes 'from gardens to golf'!

FROM Dyffryn Gardens to Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, Porthcawl Male Choir has enjoyed a busy and successful week.

This began with a 'Night at the Musicals' at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club on August 11 to a summer's evening concert at Dyffryn Gardens on August 18.

The first of these concerts at the golf club the choir entertained the audience with songs from *Showboat*, *My Fair Lady* and many more from a variety of musicals.

The choir was well supported by the two excellent soloists, Ros Evans and Ray Daniels. Both sang individual pieces from *Les Misérables* and then collaborated with a duet from *Les Mis*.

The lady captain Mrs Caroline Jones and her committee were all very pleased with the entertainment provided as were the assembled audience.

The concert MC for the evening was Mr Gareth Evans.

The concert at Dyffryn Gardens was part of their summer programme 'Late Night

Fridays'. The evening was scheduled to take place in the beautiful gardens on the south terrace adjacent to the main house.

Unfortunately, due to the British August weather, the choir had to relocate to the main library where over 100 people enjoyed a very varied programme from the choir.

This programme included, in the first half, such pieces as 'Shenandoah', 'American Trilogy' and the ever popular Welsh piece 'O Gymru'.

After a short interval, the choir continued to entertain the enthusiastic audience with 'Tell me It's Not True', 'Angels', 'Hava Nagila' and one which Mair Jones, musical director described as very pertinent to the present time. 'World in Union'.

The audience enjoyed the evening so much that the choir were asked for an encore.

The choir and the audience joined for a rousing rendition of 'Calon Lan'.

Malcolm Evans
Porthcawl Male Choir

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers



was destroyed as part of the fighting and is now preserved as a memorial to the war and the battle for the monastery.

Descriptions of the fighting conditions are stark. Soldiers unable to move a muscle as they crouched behind inadequate cover for days, for fear of sniper attacks, were sometimes so locked into their position they had to be stretchered down the mountain as they were unable to stand.

They watched as friends who moved died and could offer no help. There was little thought or understanding of post-traumatic stress disorder in 1945 when armies were dispersed. Regimental and campaign associations were the main sources of help and support, as the trauma left many to battle mental and physical ill health for years after peace was declared.

Awareness of the impact of war on civilians and military personnel is growing but, sadly, individuals still fall through the net. The number of veterans seeking support as they struggle with life as civilians has grown locally.

Last weekend, Bridgend hosted a police and community event on Newbridge Fields, and there I met with a number of organisations campaigning for greater access to mental health support for veterans.

We have come a long way from the lack of support after Monte Cassino, but still too many veterans struggle to access the help they need when a crisis hits.

Organisations such as Hafal, <http://forcesforchange.wales/>, Help for Heroes www.helpforheroes.org.uk and Change Step www.changestepwales.co.uk are here locally to help. All three are campaigning to raise awareness of the support available to military

Macular Society support group

A NEW support group is being launched to help increase the confidence and independence of people affected by macular degeneration in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Macular Society, together with local people, has organised the group, which meets at Royal Glamorgan Hospital on the first Wednesday of every month. The ongoing aim of the group will be to offer information, encouragement and friendship to people who are affected by the condition.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) affects the central vision and is the most common cause of sight loss in the UK, affecting more than 600,000 people. More people are affected as our population ages.

Adele Francis, Macular Society regional manager, said: "This new group is here for anybody affected by macular degeneration, call the Macular Society's helpline on 0300 3030 111 or email and we want to encourage as many

veterans and those who served in the emergency services.

Name an icon

This seems an apt place to ask readers to think about who they admire and which organisations are making a huge difference in their community.

The Welsh Diversity Awards are an opportunity for individuals to recognise unsung, amazing positive role models, community organisations, and iconic figures in their communities.

Nominations are now open in a variety of categories, including: Positive Role Model Award, Community Organisation Award, Welsh Cultural Icon Award, Diverse Company of the Year Award, Sports Personality of the Year Award and Lifetime Achiever Award, among many others.

To nominate, visit

www.welshdiversityawards.co.uk/nominate/, or for a nomination form email info@welshdiversityawards.co.uk

MND challenge

I don't know if Justin Hostettler-Davies is an iconic figure, but he terrifies me every year with his latest test of endurance.

Justin has been raising money for motor neuron disease for a number of years. Each summer, he finds a more gruelling test of stamina and fitness.

This year's challenge to raise awareness of MND was Stadium2Stadium4MND – a 100km walk from Park Y Scarlets in Llanelli to Rodney Parade in Newport (via Swansea, Bridgend, Pontypridd and Cardiff); all nonstop through the night.

The group of about 60 started at 1pm from Llanelli and finished some time on the Sunday afternoon in Newport. Locally, the determined participants stopped for 15-20 minutes at about 11pm at Pyle Cross and then about 1.30am at the MacDonald's outlet in Bridgend, before heading off towards Pontypridd. (Please could someone cut the brambles back on the footpath along past Stormy Down.)

I'm told that only seven people survived the entire journey. Justin was there, as was Simon Green who pushed his wheelchair through the gruelling 67 miles of the challenge. Well done, all of those who took part, for both raising awareness and money for MND.

I'm told that late into the night a man stopped his car to ask what the event was for and handed over a donation of £50. Well done that man.

You can still donate via www.justgiving.com/stadium2stadium4mnd

FREE PARKING TO BOOST TRADERS IN BRIDGEND

A FREE parking scheme in Bridgend town centre is designed to boost trade, with the first two hours of parking at the new Rhiw multi-storey car park free of charge until the spring.

The pilot scheme, made possible due to a grant from the Welsh Government, is being run to see how much of an impact it has in attracting shoppers to the town centre.

In a partnership between Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and CF31 BID it is hoped the initiative will increase visitor numbers by making the town centre a more attractive and accessible place to visit.

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for education and regeneration, added: "The Rhiw multi-storey is perfectly located for this pilot scheme, which will run to the end of March 2018."

"If the free parking is seen to have had a positive effect on the town centre, we will then have to see whether the Welsh Government provide a further allocation for a free parking scheme to continue in 2018-19."

Trader Steve Watkins from Watkins Menswear, said: "This is an excellent initiative to entice shoppers, old and new to visit the town centre. We know that people want to support their local town centre and market and this offer of two hours free parking gives them the opportunity to do just that, a great idea."

The parking initiative is one of the first projects from CF31 BID after businesses in Bridgend town centre voted overwhelmingly in favour of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID).

CF31 BID invests funding raised from a levy of 1.25 per cent of the total rateable value of businesses in the town centre back into a programme targeted specifically at improving the vibrancy of Bridgend town centre.

Justin Jenkins, manager of CF31 BID, said: "Bridgend is a wonderful town – well situated with an excellent transport network, a proud history and great local businesses."

Yet like many town centres in Wales, it has seen a decline in retail spend and footfall, along with an increase in vacant properties in recent years, and that

has affected us all. "We are working hard to build a brighter future for Bridgend and improving parking and access is one area we are looking at. We're delighted to launch this free parking pilot to see what impact it has. We're hoping that residents and visitors will take full advantage of the initiative increasing footfall in the town centre."

The parking incentive follows a spate of new openings in the town centre including café bar Corvo Lounge, gelato and dessert house Kaspa's and Adi's Dessert Bar. The new Rhiw multi-storey opened in November and is part of a larger re-development project in the town centre.

Coastal Housing is close to completion on its Cwrt Ty Afon mixed-use development, which includes new apartments and a retail unit.

The old McDonalds is also soon to be demolished, making way for 15 residential units and three ground floor retail units, while the development of the Gaylard Buildings on Court Road will offer another 15 residential units.

Sex attack pensioner (77) believes he will die in prison

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A PENSIONER has been jailed for six years, eight months at Cardiff Crown Court for carrying out a series of sex attacks and possessing child pornography.

Haydn Golding's solicitor, Giles Hayes, told the court: "He fully co-operated with the police and told them: 'Yes, I know what you are talking about. It is on a laptop downstairs. My wife doesn't know anything about it or how to switch it on.'"

Mr Greenwood said there were three Class A images on it, the most serious, 26 class B, and 50 class C.

The victim said she had been scared at what occurred and in an impact statement, added: "The abuse has had a profound effect on me."

"It has affected my confidence."

Mr Hayes said Golding was deeply ashamed and embarrassed to find himself in such a position but had adopted a mature and sensible approach to proceedings.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said some of the indecent images were "appalling". He added: "Any normal person would find them disgusting and nauseating."

He said the discovery of those pictures led to Golding's past criminal behaviour being revealed.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said: "The indecent images were discovered when Golding lived in Maesteg."

He made a Sexual Harm Prevention Order

"As a result, there were further investigations and the police found Golding register as a sex offender for life."

Pietro celebrates his 90th birthday!



The Bracci family grave in Newton Church.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Keith continued: "My father, who was a commercial traveller, always used to tell me if you wanted a good cup of tea, always go to a 'Bracci Shop'.

"What great service these shops gave. In those days they were open to about 10pm, and always served a nice cup of tea or coffee, together with delicious ice cream – as well as sweets and chocolates.

"In the 1950s, they came out with a new product called waffles, with a waffle machine on the counter alongside the coffee grinder, which provided quite an attraction, watching the waffles

being made. There were Italian immigrants in Wales before the Braccis, the Bernis, the Fulgonis, the Sidolis and the Rabaiottis arrived at the turn of the 19th century, but these were the first Italians to take advantage of a niche in the market and open refreshment and confectionery shops.

"About 80 per cent came from Bardi, a village in the mountain region near Parma, whilst the remaining 20 per cent were from Picinisco and Atina in the south of Italy.

"During World War II, Pietro was interred as an alien, but soon re-established himself in the

Welsh community after hostilities ceased.

"His cafés in Porthcawl still have the same reputation and continue to give the same good service that was established by Giacomo Bracci in the 1920s. The 'Bracci Shops' prospered in the towns and valleys, and south Wales has been the richer for having them here as a result.

"Incidentally, Giacomo Bracci is buried with his family in a fine Italian-style grave in St John's Church, Newton, and I have a personal theory that there are more Italians in Porthcawl than there are Welsh!"

A-LEVEL DELIGHT FOR BRIDGEND STUDENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun Smith commented: "I would like to congratulate pupils and students on their hard-earned success, and thank teachers, governors and parents for their unwavering dedication and support.

"A highly-skilled workforce is essential for the future prosperity and success of Bridgend county borough, and it is heartening to see that so many of our young people are achieving high grades."

Council Leader Huw David added: "As education has been a long-standing priority for this local authority, I am delighted to see that the success rate has been sustained and that so many of our young people are being given opportunities to move on to higher education, training and employment."

Across the county borough, schools have reported positive A-Level results.

Cynffig Comprehensive School delivered its highest pass rate to date, with 100 per cent of pupils achieving A*-E grades and going on to further education or apprenticeships.

Headteacher Hannah Castle said: "We are delighted that there has been yet another

increase in our A-Level performance, with our highest A*-A achievement to date. The results once again represent the hard work of pupils, families and teachers."

At Porthcawl Comprehensive School, pupils are celebrating a 99 per cent overall A*-E pass rate, 28 per cent of which were either A* or A grades.

Headteacher Andrew Slade said: "With well over 1,000 papers being sat at A-Level, these results are especially impressive."

The overall pass rate at Pencoed

results."

This was the third year of A-Level results at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, where all students achieved a place at their desired university – 45 per cent of whom scored grades between A*-B and 75 per cent between A*-C.

Headteacher David George said: "This year featured the first set of results for the exciting new partnership between the school and Bridgend College, with the formation of Penybont Sixth Form College, and overall results have improved significantly."

Headteacher Meurig Jones said: "This is testament to the hard work of the students and staff in gaining good results, and we wish them the very best as they continue on to further studies, employment or work-based training."

SAMTAMPA EXHIBITION OPENS IN PORTHCAWL

THE Samtampa-Edward Prince of Wales 70th anniversary exhibition at the Y Centre, John Street, Porthcawl, was opened by Porthcawl Town Mayor, Coun Lorrie Desmond-Williams, on August 14 at 11am, in the presence of the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Pam Davies.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, in congratulating Shout for all the effort in bringing together all the material, including school work, honoured Gary Victor, chairman of Shout Porthcawl with a town plaque.

It is 70 years since 47 men died in this dreadful disaster at Sker Point, Porthcawl, and yet the tragedy is unknown to many residents and visitors.

To help expand the town's maritime heritage, this special exhibition was opened in the Centre by its patron, First Minister Carwyn Jones AM on August 31.

The exhibition is the collaboration of Churches Together in Porthcawl, Porthcawl YMCA and Shout. It has been made possible through funding from The Lottery Heritage Fund and Porthcawl Town Council.

Entry is free to this major attempt to portray the incredibly heroic and tragic story of two vessels lost with all hands to the savage sea.

There are lift facilities at the Y Centre and artefacts from the Samtampa are on view in the museum.

JOHN BERRY



CHEERS! – the staff were on hand with a warm welcome.

Now care home residents have their very own local!

RESIDENTS at Hafod Care's Brocastle Manor care home in Bridgend can now enjoy a trip to the pub – without leaving home!

The 'Pen y Bont Inn' was officially opened last week and residents and their families enjoyed a pleasant evening, complete with a barbecue in the garden.

Marc James, deputy manager at the home, said: "We are committed to promoting

independence and well-being and many of our residents have mobility issues, or are living with dementia, so it can be difficult for them to make trips out.

"We have a lovely lounge which opens onto the garden so we decided to give it a make-over and turn it into a much more sociable space. Our new bar enables our residents and their families to enjoy a coffee, soft drink, or their favourite tipple in a relaxing environment."

Familiar surroundings can have a big impact on people living with dementia and can often help them to recall happy feelings and experiences.

Ronald (81) moved to Brocastle in April. Maureen, his wife of 61 years, and daughter visit him every week.



Residents and guests enjoyed a celebration barbecue. (INSET: THE NEW PUB SIGN).

Maureen said: "The bar is an excellent idea. Ron has dementia and limited mobility, so it's difficult to take him out. Now we can easily pop to the bar – and to him it feels just like we're going out for the evening."

"It's also a lovely way to get to know the other residents and their families."

Mark added: "We have further plans to

make the Pen y Bont more authentic, including screening major sporting events to enable our residents to enjoy the atmosphere and excitement of a trip out on match day, and there's no distance at all to get home!"

"We've had great support from local businesses, including the Cross Inn, Cowbridge and Coity Castle, Bridgend, who

generously donated equipment and even the sign, so a big thank you from all of us at Brocastle Manor."

Brocastle Manor, set in beautiful grounds close to Bridgend and Cowbridge, provides residential and nursing care for 78 older people and has a specialist care facility for EMI (elderly mentally ill) residents. To find out more, call 01656 679120.

Bridgend Rotarians hand over cheque to hospital radio charity

AT its luncheon meeting on August 21, the Rotary Club of Bridgend presented a cheque to Mrs Jackie Thomas, the local Sainsbury's store PR Ambassador – as a donation towards the store's Charity of the Year for 2017/18.

Established in 1982, Bridgend Hospital Radio (BHR) broadcasts to the Princess of Wales Hospital, and has been named as Sainsbury's Charity of the Year for 2017/18 at the Bridgend store.

Formerly known as Bridgend League of Friends Hospital Radio, the registered charity will be celebrating its first birthday as BHR on September 1. Its aim is to aid



Bridgend Rotary president Major Wayne Morgan MBE hands over the charity cheque to Mrs Jackie Thomas.

recovery and lessen the stress of being in hospital, via the power of music.

Around 12 people are involved in the day-to-day running of the charity, and volunteers are always needed. Bridgend on 01656 652182. CR



Golfing tournament provides boost for Heronsbridge School

A BIG 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to our charity day that took place at The Grove Golf Club in May

In total, we raised £3,025 for The Friends Of Heronsbridge, a cheque being presented to Marjorie Nash, chair of the charity, at an assembly meeting of Heronsbridge School, Bridgend in June.

The Friends of Heronsbridge, a special school, is looking to fund projects, including equipment for a

range of outdoor activities at the school, to support the pupils' sensory needs and motor skills development.

The charity day at The Grove consisted of a round of golf, followed by an auction and raffle, with live entertainment provided by Jeff 'Diamond' Phillips later that evening.

A great day was had by all!

RAY PHILLIPS

Delight over hall funding

I WAS delighted to hear that funding had been granted for the new village hall at Ogmore-by-Sea to go ahead.

I have met with residents several times regarding this project, and following this it was clear there was demand in the village for the facility, but that many obstacles were placed in the way.

Andrew RT Davies,
South Wales Central
Regional AM.

Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

RESULTS at Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

Wednesday, August 9:

First, John Beard and Liam Sheridan; second, David Bowen and David Crompton; third, Rob Foreman and Alan Heath.

The winners on handicap were David Bowen and David Crompton.

Thursday, August 10:

First, Stewart Norton

and Stuart Davies; second, Leila O'Hagan and David Newman; third, Glyn Williams and Margaret Roach.

The winners on handicap were Stewart Norton and Stuart Davies.

Friday, August 11:

First, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams; second, Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan; joint third, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Chris Rawlings and Teresa Griffiths.

The winners on handicap were Jane Brook and Wendy Williams.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Norton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start it helps if players arrive at least ten minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Norton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session, when help is available with the bidding.

There will be a new series for beginners on Wednesdays from 4pm until 6pm starting on September 13.

For further information about the lessons, and other club activities, contact of Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Explorer Scouts launch travel appeal in Bridgend



HELLO, we are the Bridgend Explorer Scout unit and in summer 2018, we will be going to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) in Switzerland.

It is a World Scout Centre, where groups can meet other Scouts from all over Europe. Therefore, we will not only be able to have new experiences, but meet with people around the globe and learn all about their cultures.

There are 27 members of our Explorer unit who are going to KISC in August 2018, mainly young people between 15 and 18 years of age. This trip will be a monumental experience for us to learn new things and gain knowledge to help them through life, bringing Scouts together.

As a group, we meet every week for meetings and are active in the local communities, helping at a wide range of events.

All funds raised over the year will be going towards activities we will be doing at Kandersteg. Thoughts on events we could help at, or donations themselves, would be appreciated and gratefully received, as they all help to make this trip the memorable occasion it truly is.

Currently, we have received £780 in generous donations and have raised £318.54 ourselves, all to help us get to Kandersteg and fully immerse ourselves in the experience.

I will be giving regular updates on our progress and any developments. In September, we are running a quiz night in The Grove, Portcawl (a date will be

announced soon), we are running a bag pack in the Sainsbury's by McArthur Design Outlet on October 7 and in December we are doing the Christmas Swim. Many more events to be confirmed for this year and early 2018!

Thank you for your time and any help with our cause is much appreciated.

Conor Farrell-John
(Explorer Scout)

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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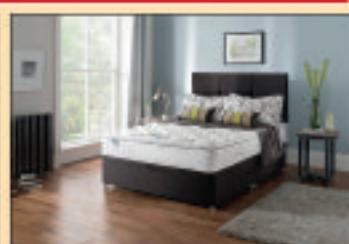
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A-Level celebrations at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg



Carys Lewis, Nia Fenn and Lois Aled.



ABOVE: Jac Evans, Caleb Darwin and Brendan Scott.



Elen Dafydd.



Niamh Cooper.



Nieve Briscombe.

PUPILS, parents, teachers and governors at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg are celebrating excellent A-Level examination results this year as the school achieved a pass rate of 100 per cent of pupils achieving two or more A-Levels at A*-E.

92% of pupils gained 3 or more A Levels at A*-E whilst 80% of the year group gained 3 or more A Levels at A*-C. 27.3% of all grades were A*-A.

The Welsh Baccalaureate in its new format is a particular strength of the school, with 66% of all pupils gaining A*-C grades, 18% gaining A*-A grades and of the 8 BTEC grades achieved 7 were graded at Distinction level.

Headteacher Hywel Price said: "I wish to congratulate in particular Elen Dafydd for gaining 4A* grades, thus gaining entry to the London School of Economics: "We are delighted that we have two students this year who have been successful in their applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Nia Fenn, who achieved three A* grades and one A grade, will be attending Keble College, Oxford, to read Human Sciences.

"Having achieved two A* grades and two A grades, Caleb Darwin will read Human, Social and Political Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge. He has also been awarded a Gwalia scholarship by his college as a result of his performance.

"Lois Aled excelled with 2A* and 4A grades and will pursue a Medical course in Bristol. Brendan Scott also excelled, gaining 3A* grades and will study mathematics at Bath University.

"Other students who achieved extremely high grades are Jac Evans with 2A* and 1A, Rhodri Davies 2A* and 2A, Alys Griffiths 1A* and 2A grades, Niamh Cooper with 1A* and 2A grades and Ben Brown 1A* and 2A grades.

"Congratulations to all the pupils

and staff and we wish all pupils every success in the future. Well done!"

Disgyblion Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg yn llwyddo i gynnal safonau uchel yn eu harholliau Safon Uwch eleni eto

Mae disgyblion, rhieni, a thrwawon a Llywodraethwyr yn dathlu canlyniaethau Safon Uwch ardderchog yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg eleni gyda 100% o ddisgyblion yn sicrhau 2 neu fwy o gymwysterau Safon Uwch A*-E.

Llywyddodd 92% o ddisgyblion i sicrhau 3 neu fwy A*-E tra llywyddodd 80% o'r flwyddyn i sicrhau 3 neu fwy A*-C. Roedd 27.3% o holl raddau y disgyblion yn raddau A*-A.

Sicrhaoedd y Fagloraeth Gymraeg ar ei ffurf newydd bod 66% o ddisgyblion yn sicrhau gradd A*-C, bod 18% yn raddau A*-A ac o'r 8 gradd BTEC graddiwyd 7 ohonynt yn Anrhydedd.

Hoffwn longyfarch Elen Dafydd ar sicrhau 4A* gan lwyddo i barhau a'i hastudiaethau yn yr LSE. Ymfalchiwn yn llwyddiant dan ddisgybl eleni sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus yn eu ceisiadau i brifysgolion Rhwydhen a Chaergrawnt.

Bydd Nia Fenn, a sicrhaoedd 3A* ac 1A yn mynd i Goleg Keble, Rhwydhen i astudio Gwyddorau Dynol ar sicrhau 3A* ac 2A* a 2A. Llywyddodd Caleb i ennill Ysgololraeth Gwalia eleni fel canlyniaid i'w berfformiadau academaidd.

Llywyddodd Lois Aled i sicrhau 2A* a 4A ac bydd yn astudio cwrs meddygol ym Mryste, bydd Brendan Scott yn astudio mathemateg yng Nghaerfaddor ar sicrhau 3A*, tra llywyddodd Jac Evans i sicrhau 2A* a 2A, Alys Griffiths 1A* a 2A, Niamh Cooper 1A* a 3A a Ben Brown 1A* a 2A.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i bob un ohonoch yn y flwyddyn a pob dynuniad da yn y dyfodol.

MEDICAL SCIENCE NEWS

Bloating? Constipation? Diarrhoea? Abdominal Pain?

Up to 13 Million Brits affected!

You repeatedly suffer from constipation or diarrhoea, bloating or abdominal pain? You are not alone by far! In many cases the cause is Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). The fantastic news is: A promising relief for IBS is finally available in the UK - Kijimea IBS!

The mystery of IBS finally solved

Recurring intestinal problems have been a mystery for a long time. The search for a possible cause took scientists years and years - until they discovered what may be to blame: a chronic bowel disease called IBS. But that is not all: Today, experts are increasingly convinced that IBS may be caused by small damages in the intestinal barrier. These allow pollutants and pathogens to enter the intestinal wall and to trigger the typical IBS symptoms.

Fantastic news for IBS sufferers

Thanks to a breakthrough discovery by a group of renowned scientists it is now possible to treat IBS symptoms effectively. How? With a globally unique bifidobacterium (B. bifidum MIMBb75), contained only in Kijimea IBS. Here is what is so special about it: This fascinating bacteria strain attaches itself directly to the surface of the intestinal wall and forms a protective layer.

Amazing study results

The benefits of Kijimea IBS have actually been put to the test in a clinical study - with amazing results! IBS symptoms did not only



significantly improve due to Kijimea IBS but also disappeared completely in some cases. On top of that, the bifidobacterium contained in Kijimea IBS is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of IBS patients!

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A brass quartet, canapes, champagne, mystery prizes – AND A CHAMPION PUBLIC SPEAKING TEAM!

THE south Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union was blessed with fine weather as members enjoyed the stirring music of the brass quartet from the Cardiff and Vale Youth Orchestra, captivating canapes from Beppi Villa of the Really Fresh Food Company, and mystery prizes from the tombola run by the ladies of Bridgend Soroptimist International.

This was also the opportunity to recognise the outstanding performance of the public speaking team from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Barry, which won the Welsh Schools' Final and went on to triumph in the UK national final at Churchill College, Cambridge, as the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Mrs Morfudd Meredith presented prizes to chairman Twm Aled, speaker Huw Jones, and



ABOVE: Derek Morgan, Morfudd Meredith, Enid Child, Lady Inkin, Graeme Morgan, and Sir Brooke Boothby (with magnum of champagne).

questioner Tia Roach.

The quest to find the lady and gentleman judged to be dressed in the most appropriate summer garden party attire, was led by branch vice-chairman Lady Inkin and resulted in Sir Brooke Boothby presenting magnum of his best champagne to Enid Child and Graeme Morgan.

Sir Brooke then added to the jollity by appearing with a giant cane and challenged all and sundry to guess the height for a modest £1 a time; amazingly Ray Taylor of Pentrech was just half an inch away from the 24.5 foot length, resulting in Sir Brooke's wine cellar being diminished by another magnum.

With Anne Morgan



The winning public speaking team – Huw Jones, Tia Roach and Twm Aled – are pictured with Morfudd Meredith and Derek Morgan.

organising a most generous raffle with over 40 prizes and Dr Ian Campbell dispensing fine wines at modest prices, over £1,000 was raised to help fund the next round of the Schools' Public Speaking and

Performing Shakespeare competitions, which are so valued by students, parents and teachers in south Wales.

The next event is the branch AGM and lunch with author and journalist Matthew Green who will be speaking on 'Aftershock' on September 15, at the Cardiff City Stadium. Details from branch chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129, or at esuswb@googlemail.co.m.

speaking on 'Aftershock' on September 15, at the Cardiff City Stadium. Details from branch chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129, or at esuswb@googlemail.co.m.



A trio of Lord Lieutenants – Dr Peter Beck, Morfudd Meredith, and Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards.

Group wins award

RECENTLY, Tenovus Cancer Care celebrated the contribution of their volunteers at its annual volunteer awards ceremony, at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

The awards, said a spokesperson, "recognise and celebrate all the volunteers who give up their time and skills to support Tenovus Cancer Care."

Among the winners were Barry Friends of Tenovus Cancer Care Group, the 'Group Award' winner."

The Barry group is celebrating its 50th birthday this year, and over the last 50 years, the group has raised funds, and awareness, of Tenovus Cancer Care in the Barry area.

Mary Thomas, a founding member and

birthday celebrations, the Barry group is having a lunch party at the Seashore Grill, Beach Road, Sully on Wednesday, September 20 from 12pm, tickets at £20 per person.

The group now holds many events each year, including coffee mornings, quiz nights, whist drives, garden parties and bucket collections in local supermarkets and at Tenovus events.

As the final part of its

birthday celebrations, the Barry group is having a lunch party at the Seashore Grill, Beach Road, Sully on Wednesday, September 20 from 12pm, tickets at £20 per person.

Guests will be treated to a two-course lunch and a glass of fizz.

To purchase a ticket, contact Mary Thomas on 01446 733978; Joy Ephraim on 01446 721321; or Beryl Holmes 01446 408420.

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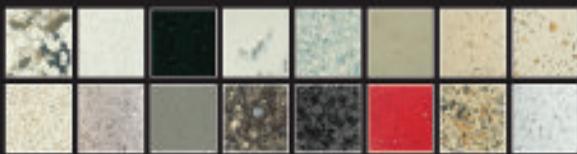
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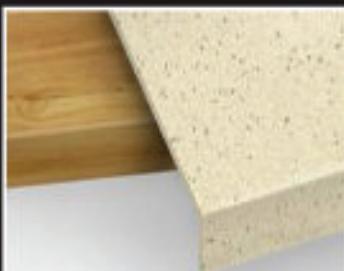
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JA



Lyn and Richard Anthony with HSBC agriculture relationship manager, Justin Long, and the new biomass boiler.

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Banking on a bucolic biomass boiler in Bridgend

A 3,000-ACRE family-run farm in Bridgend has secured a six-figure finance package from HSBC, to buy a new biomass boiler – enabling the business to significantly reduce fossil fuel consumption and increase grain yield.

The new biomass boiler will provide Tythegston Farm with a sustainable heating solution to enhance the grain-drying process by allowing the farm to harvest the crop earlier.

By purchasing the new biomass boiler, tenants of the farm, Richard and Lyn Anthony, will also have access to the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), a government initiative that financially rewards farmers for generating and using renewable energy to heat their businesses.

The funding for the biomass boiler has been drawn from a £300 million lending fund committed by HSBC to support agricultural businesses in the UK, as part of its wider support package to help British SMEs realise their growth ambitions.

The arable farm in Bridgend, which supplies animal feed to farmers across south Wales, has been owned by Richard and Lyn for more than 20 years.

Between them, the husband-and-wife team, alongside their son David, have more than 30 years' experience in arable farming and employ four permanent staff.

TOURIST RAILWAY 'THANK YOU' DAY

FOLLOWING the vandalism at the Barry Tourist Railway recently, the staff say they have been "overwhelmed and truly touched" by many messages of support and offers of help.

"We have, therefore, decided to stage a 'community day' on Monday, August 28 for local people," said John Buxton, managing director of the Barry Tourist Railway.

"Bring along a paintbrush or a set of loppers if you'd like to assist us on the day, or just bring yourself if you'd like to see what goes on behind the scenes at the railway," added John.

"We're organizing a free barbecue for those who turn up at our Plymouth Road site (CF62 5TY) on Bank Holiday Monday between 12pm – 4pm and our heritage trains will be running for those who'd like to explore the rest of the railway," added Kathryn Kemp, the Barry station manager.

For more information, contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway on 01446 748816; email john.buxton@cambrriantransport.com; website: www.barrytouristrailway.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

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As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

While letting plenty of light in, some found that their conservatories could be too bright in summer while cool in winter.

Building technology has moved on, and there are now two solid roofs that can convert a conservatory

The first is a lightweight, 'tilted' roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.16, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this roof option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lights or even roof windows for ventilation and sky views.

For a more contemporary feel, the LivinRoof combines sleek lines and thermal efficiency to create something that looks very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be glazed to create a hybrid solid and glass roof allowing you to choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

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Vote, vote, vote, for Barry YMCA's top young people!

YMCA BARRY is involved with YMCA abilities the opportunity and I hope everyone will take part in gymnastics support me and vote. To and reach their own make it through to the personal potential. final judging panel Sophie works would be incredible."

Nominator: Mike Smith, media leaving training to coordinator, YMCA Barry, said: "I couldn't think of a more deserving individual to be upon the work YMCA nominated for this Barry does with the prestigious award.

Tyrone's story is a truly remarkable one and I hope this award will recognise just how far Tyrone has come along with his journey to living a better life."

The Young Achiever of the Year Award recognises the exceptionality of the achievements of a young person who has overcome significant obstacles to make a real difference to their lives and their community.

Young Worker of the Year

THE second nominee in the 'Young Worker of the Year' category of the Youth Matters Awards, is YMCA worker, Sophie Erickson.

Sophie is also up against four other young people from across the country.

Tyrone said: "I am really excited to be nominated for such a significant award and to have reached this stage of the process.

"My life has changed so much since getting

Sophie recognises how important it is to support young coaches and volunteers professionally.

Voting started online at midnight on Monday, August 14 and runs until midnight on Friday, August 25. Votes cast by the public will be combined with judges' choices and the three finalists will be announced on August 29.

All the finalists will attend the ceremony at 8 Northumberland Avenue, in central London, where the winner will be announced.

Sophie said: "I can't believe I was nominated for such a significant award and I am thrilled to have been shortlisted for the online vote!"

YMCA nominator Anthea Clements said: "I am so proud of the staff, the volunteers and the work we carry out at YMCA Barry, for Sophie to have her hard work recognised in this way is fantastic."



Sophie Erickson.



Tyrone Power.

Vote for YMCA of the Year at www.ymca.org.uk/award. Follow YMCA England & Wales on Twitter and join the conversation using #YMA17.

For more information on Youth Matters, visit www.ymca.org.uk/award. For more information on YMCA BARRY visit www.ymcabarry.org.uk.



Activ Glass roof

A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low emissivity (low-e) Activ, energy efficient glass roof.

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New church is 'making a splash' in Colwinston



I am the pastor at the newly-founded Liberty Church in Colwinston.

We launched this church on April 30 and meet every Sunday in Colwinston village hall. We are amazed at how quickly things are happening. Take a look at our facebook page 'Liberty Church Colwinston' for more information.

It all started with an 'Alpha course', which we ran in Colwinston's Sycamore Tree pub in January to March 2017. After the course ended, people did not want to stop meeting so we ran another Alpha course in Colwinston village hall, starting on April 30 (finished July 23).

Some amazing things are happening and we are all so excited; everyone is welcome to come and see.

We have baptised eight new Christians in a large pool at Colwinston Village hall fields. We had an amazing turnout of almost 100 people and a great hog roast provided by a local butcher.

Paul M Button.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

St Clare's School celebrates 'excellent' A-level results

SIXTH form students from St Clare's School are celebrating another year of what a spokesperson described as "excellent" A-Level results, with a 100 per cent pass rate and 34 per cent at A* or A grades.

Straight A students were Thomas Hood, Siobhan Lock and Joshua Williams who have confirmed places at top destinations.

Head boy, Thomas Hood achieved an A in maths, chemistry and biology. He joined St Clare's in year 7 and has benefited from the small classes, high levels of stretch and challenge and the personalised approach to teaching and learning.

Thomas has accepted a place at Cardiff University to read biomedical science and he plans to go into medicine and become an orthopaedic surgeon.

Deputy head girl, Siobhan Lock, performed superbly well and achieved an A* in chemistry and biology and an A in psychology and French. Siobhan joined St Clare's in year 5 and attributes her fantastic results to the



St Clare's students celebrate A-Level success.

staff: "The teachers are really great and they (Spanish and Portuguese) continue the theme with immensely proud of our students' achievements and it is a pleasure to

they understand how you Head girl, Carla rate.

Prinsloo also gained A*. This year, 34 per cent of grades were at A*-A and 80 per cent at A*-C

and it is a pleasure to

celebrate with them today after all their hard work. We are delighted

that so many of our students have secured places at their first-choice universities, to read competitive subjects such as biomedical science, psychology and modern languages.

"We wish them every success in their continued studies and future careers."

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Gundog trainer Mike casts expert eye on Czech Republic



Mike Larkin Czechs out the entries...

MIKE Larkin of Larkin Gundogs, has just returned from a judging and training trip to the Czech Republic.

Mr Larkin, from Ogmore by Sea, who has trained a number of dog champions said: "The competition was held in the mountains outside Prague. Among those present were people from Poland, Austria, Germany and, of course, the Czech Republic.

"People think nothing there of making a 10 or 12-hour car journey to attend an event."

Mr Larkin, a senior judge with the Kennel Club, helped to set the ground up for the competition, took part in training sessions and judged the categories including 'novice', 'intermediate' and 'advanced'.

He also managed to enjoy a day in Prague before flying back to the UK.

Vale to host Ploughing, Hedging and Fencing Championships

THE Vale of Glamorgan will play host to the 58th All Wales Ploughing & Hedging Championships and the Five Nations Challenge on September 16 and 17.

This will take place at Boverton Place Farm, Llantwit Major, on land owned by VJ Thomas & Son.

The first day will see the Five Nations Challenge taking place, a competition between Wales, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

There will also be a Welsh Dragon Open Championship, a competition for Ferguson T20 tractors and general purpose plough under the Ferguson Club rules. Entries for this close on September 8.

The Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society will also stage a Reversible Ploughing competition and entries for this class close on September 1. The All Wales Championships will then take place on Sunday, September 17 – for the first time in many years, all competition will be on grass.

The two-day event will see horse

drawn, vintage and steam ploughing, plus hedge laying and fencing competitions. There will also be demonstration areas highlighting modern methods of farming and a number of trade stands.

See a cider press and a thatcher at work, plus on Sunday afternoon there will be main ring entertainment provided by Merion Owen's Quack Pack.

Oil4Wales is bringing its stand which will include some Welsh rugby stars available for autograph signing.

Entry is £10 for adults with children 16 years and under free of charge. And if that's not enough, there are trailer rides around the site – free of charge!

President Edward Thomas said: "We are thrilled to be holding this competition again and have competitors from all over the country. There are many rural attractions and demonstrations around the site, as well as watching the country's finest ploughmen, hedge layers and fencers in action."

For further information, contact 07809 050635, or www.welshploughing.com

MP 'hopes to secure mesh implant debate'

THE GEM recently ran a story on a Barry woman who had suffered pain after she had received a mesh implant.

Pauline Inch had attended a Parliamentary meeting at Westminster on July 18 hosted by Owen Smith, the MP for Pontypridd which was addressed by gynaecologists, urologists, and 'Sling the Mesh' campaigner Kath Sansom.

Following the meeting, Mrs Inch was able to pass on contact details to another Vale woman who was concerned by symptoms she was experiencing.

Owen Smith's office has told The GEM that he hopes to have a Westminster Hall debate on 'mesh' in September.

He had previously applied for one in June, but was unsuccessful in the ballot.

'Stroke tests' offered

STROKE UK has joined forces with the Welsh Ambulance Service to invite people to have their blood pressure tested, in order to see if they are likely to suffer a stroke.



Stroke UK shared a stand with the Welsh Ambulance Service at this year's Vale Agricultural Show, and offered visitors the opportunity to hop into their ambulance and have

nights working and "It is fantastic that the coffee-fuelled early Welsh Ambulance mornings isn't ideal, as Service and Stroke UK have been offering blood pressure tests to residents concerned.

However, the Stroke UK tester talked me through the whole have underlying process – which was symptoms which we

fully explained the "When it comes to results and what they health, not knowing is not worth the risk."

AM congratulates local A-Level pupils

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has congratulated A-Level pupils across the Vale for their recent results.

Some 28 per cent of students achieved A* and A grades, five per cent higher than the average across Wales.

There were significant improvements at Barry Comprehensive School where 22 per cent of students achieved A* and A grades, up from only 7 per cent last year.

Seventy-seven per cent achieved A*-C grades, up from 53 per cent in 2016.

Pupils at Stanwell School, rewarded with success."



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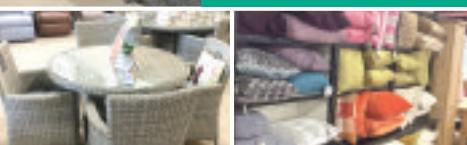
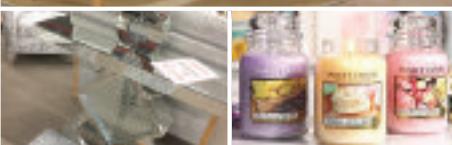
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GVS to hold BIG Volunteering Fair

CALLING all charity and community groups – are you looking for volunteers? Do you need extra support?

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) will be hosting The BIG Volunteering Fair on Thursday, October 12 from 11am – 4.30pm at Barry Memorial Hall. This is an opportunity to showcase your charity and community group to recruit volunteers.

Over 300 people attended the previous fair in January. Spaces are now limited, so book before the deadline of August 31.

To book a stall contact GVS on 01446 741706; enquiries@gvs.wales, or at www.gvs.wales.

So much on offer at Samantha B

BUCKLE up ladies, it's going to be exciting!

As the summer has been the usual wash out weather-wise, it's comforting to turn our thoughts to the new season.

We've had lots of lovely new things in and lots of lovely colours.

Bianca never fails to please and is one of our best sellers. Gorgeous plums, accented with winter white and taupe, fabulous dresses and Chanel-style jackets all designed to mix and match, very clever dressing!

Olsen is also one of our favourite labels, we are the only supplier of bianca and Olsen locally so it's nice to have something different.

Classic navy highlighted with lux mustard are always great quality and fit.

Pomodoro has just

landed too! I have a waiting list for their popular pull on trousers, if you don't want to miss out call in and try.

They also design gorgeous dresses - very easy dressing

Expect to see vibrant colours like lime and plum and the ever-popular navy.

This year they have also produced a fabulous wool coat, a great alternative to a heavy winter coat and great over jeans or mixed in with a dress.

Marble is ever popular, the jeans are fab and in new colours with cleverly designed coordinated knitwear.

If you're still in summer mode we still have plenty of bargains this week pick up two poppy dresses or two poppy trousers for £15!

Plenty of t-shirts too, prices from as little as £1 - we look forward to seeing you!

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COUNCIL Leader Coun John Thomas and Mayor of the Vale, Coun Janice Charles, took time out of a civic event at Barry Island recently to welcome two community groups who had travelled a combined 200 miles for a day at the beach.

There to celebrate the success of the council's parks team in securing seven green flag awards for the Vale for a second successive year, the civic leaders gave two impromptu speeches to a Bangladeshi community group from Birmingham and the 1st Llandrindod Scout group who were both enjoying a day at the Island.

The Ektu Onnorokom group had brought eight full coaches filled with around 400 of their

members to the resort as part of a summer family fun day.

Cardiff-based community activist and

Bangla TV presenter Mokis Monsur was a guest speaker at the gathering.

He said: "The group go to different attractions across the country and I recommended they come to Barry Island as it is a great place for children and family alike. The family fun day had sports activities, a cultural

function, prize ceremony, lunch and, of course, a lot of time was spent on the rides and the beach. We thought it would be a great day for everyone, and it really was!"

Coun Thomas said: "It is great to see that the hard work of our tourism and resort management teams pulls in visitors from all across the country.

"We can sometimes forget that not everyone has such easy access to the coast; and meeting people who had made a four-hour round trip for

their day at the beach, was a reminder of just how lucky we are to have a first-class seaside resort on our doorstep."

What's on and where?

Bank Holiday Beach Clean

FOLLOWING a successful trial last year, Friends of Barry Beaches will be taking their monthly beach clean outside Barry for August only, in an attempt to avoid potential Bank Holiday traffic and parking problems.

The month's beach clean will therefore be held on Bank Holiday Monday (August 28) at Gileston Beach, Aberthaw. The clean up will start at 3pm and volunteers should meet at the car park.

For those unsure of the location, the road is opposite the war memorial at St Athan.

New volunteers are invited to join the regular team and litter grabbers, bags and gloves are provided. Children are always welcome but we ask that they are please accompanied by an adult.

We look forward to seeing you at Gileston beach on Bank Holiday Monday.

Arthritis advice

If you have arthritis or are looking after someone with this condition, you are not alone.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on Tuesday, August 29 from 10am to 12pm, at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

You will be able to chat to an adviser from Arthritis Care UK who

can offer practical and emotional support.

This is a drop-in session, so no appointment is needed; just come along. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Autumn events at Griffin Books

GRIFFIN Books in Penarth has the following events for the autumn.

On September 14 at 2pm, Rachel Joyce, bestselling author of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* will be discussing her recently published novel *The Music Shop* in All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square. Tickets are £16 which includes a signed copy of the book and a cream tea.

On September 23 at 2pm, comedian Adam Kay will be at St Cyres School, Sully Road to perform extracts from the diaries of his years as a junior doctor in the NHS, *This Is Going To Hurt*. Tickets are £10, redeemable against purchases of the book.

Finally, on October 19 crime writer Martina Cole joins us for a literary lunch at the Glamorganshire Golf Club at 12.30pm.

Tickets at £30 include a two-course meal, tea or coffee and personally signed copy of Martina's latest book *Damaged*, which sees the return of her iconic heroine DCI Kate Burrows.

Tickets are now on sale from Griffin Books for all three events; call 02920 706455 to book or for further information.



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PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY KEEP THEMSELVES BUSY DURING THEIR HOLIDAY BREAK...

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'Watch Out'



'Yesterday'



'Cool me down'



Porthcawl Lions hand out 100 children's books



THE Lions Club of Porthcawl held a great literary event recently, when it gave away 100 children's books.

The give-away took place in John Street, Porthcawl, and members of the Lions were joined by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Lorrie Desmond Williams, as lucky children from the area each received an unexpected gift!

Report and images by Keith E Morgan.



AM's tribute to Llantwit stalwart

I GIVE my heartfelt sympathies to the family of a renowned citizen of Llantwit Major, Alan David, who died last week.

Mattie David, her son Brenig and family have lost a beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather.

I knew Alan as a longstanding loyal member of the Labour Party, well known locally as Mayor in

THE Pyle & Porthcawl Photographic Society is taking a summer break but still meet up on Thursday evenings at various prearranged places around the area.

Spokesman Geoff Baker said: "Anyone is welcome to join in. It's free, contact me for more details.

"We welcome new members of all ages and skill levels, so if you have an interest in photography come join us on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at St Clare's School, Newton, when we start back on September 7.

"Our programme is available at www.pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk and I can be contacted on 01639 851050 or by email on compsec@pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk"

'Get out of the way!'



'Standing in the stirrups'.



1986, but also as the trusted and wise agent to Brynmor John, Labour MP for Pontypridd.

He was always gentle but firm in his advice to me as the first Labour Assembly Member serving the Vale of Glamorgan.

His wide range of interests and local voluntary service included the Lions. He will be greatly missed in the town where he lived for over 60 years – coming originally from Aberkenfig.

Jane Huit, Vale AM.



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Out & About with The GEM

Book review – Owen Tudor, The Godfather of the Tudors

OVERS of history will enjoy Terry Breverton's *Owen Tudor – Godfather of the Tudors* (published by Amberley Books, £20), writes Brian Lee.

For generations, the ancestors of Welshman Owen Tudor had fought Romans, Irish, Picts, Vikings, Saxons, Mercians and Normans. His uncles had been executed in the Glyndwr Welsh War of Independence, his father pardoned, but his estates stripped from him.

Owen's now landless father took him to

London to try and find employment and Owen fought for Henry V in France.

He entered the service of Henry's queen, Catherine of Valois, and soon after the king's death he secretly married her, the mother of the eight-month old Henry VI.

Owen and Catherine would have two boys together, hidden from the world, and the boy-king Henry VI, by the Bishops of London and Ely.

Henry VI would go on to enoble them as Edmund, Earl of Richmond and Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, but upon Catherine's death, Owen was imprisoned.

Escaping twice, Owen was thrown into the beginnings of the Wars of the Roses with his two sons. Edmund died in Wales and Jasper became the only lord who fought throughout the civil wars until his nephew, Edmund's son Henry Tudor, was established on the English throne as Henry VII.

When Jasper led the Lancastrian forces at Mortimer's Cross in

1461, the aging Owen led a wing of the defeated army, was captured and executed.

Without the secret marriage for love, there would have been no Tudor dynasty.

This first ever biography of the 'Godfather' of the Tudor dynasty runs to 336 pages and did you know that there was at one time oppressive penal laws forbidding Welshmen from owning property, convening public meetings, wearing armour on the highways or holding royal office?

And Welsh castles could only be garrisoned by pure-blooded Englishmen.

Historic St Mary Hill Fair on Bank Holiday Monday

THE St Mary Hill Fair will be held on the common between Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw on Bank Holiday Monday, August 28 from 10am until 4pm.

The fair has been held for many centuries and attracts traders from all over the country who come along selling horses, poultry, fine china, leather goods, to mention just a few of the stalls.

Each year the fair supports local charities and this year we will donate to the Bridgend Mayor's fund, which is supporting the Alzheimer's Society, Bridgend and Breast Cancer Care – Princess of Wales Hospital.

The organisers of the fair, the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators, are grateful to all those who help and especially local firms such as Broughshire Limited and Nolan Recycling who have provided their services free of charge.

Parking on the common will cost £5 per vehicle and two large car parks will be open.

The fair organisers require, in the interest of animal welfare, that vendors of livestock and poultry provide suitable accommodation and drinking water for their stock.

Enfys craft fairs run until Christmas

ENFYS craft fairs will begin their run up to Christmas on Saturday, September 2 at the St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road.

The fair opens at 10am and finishes at 4pm giving time for browsing around the stalls, having 'eleveners' and lunch from Ann's Kitchen, chatting with friends over a cuppa. Why not make it a delightful day out?

There will be a wide variety of craft products on sale, each stall showing the talent of the crafter in their particular discipline. There is woodturning, sewing, embroidery, jewellery, cake making, card making, photography, painting and personalised tags.

The charity raffle for September is

Wales Air Ambulance.

The charity needs to raise the funds for the day to day running of missions with each mission on average costing £1,500.

Enfys are extremely sorry to hear of the death of Mostyn Gardiner who, with his wife Margaret, over the past five years sold decorated blankets, bibs, soft toys and dolls. We send our deepest sympathy to Margaret and family.

As usual a warm welcome is assured for new and old friends alike, so why not pop in and see us, support our charity and spoil yourself with a little something from one of our stalls

For more information about the fair contact Reg on 01446 792149 or Patricia on 01656 880784.

BW

Dinas Powys plans for village show

THE Dinas Powys Village Show will be held on Saturday, September 2, at the Parish and Lee halls and gardens in Dinas Powys.

Mario Morris Magic + Balloon modelling, exciting Meccano exhibits, free face painting and 'Owls for U'.

What would the show be without the popular Women's Institute teas?

There will be a free bouncy castle and several community gazebos featuring village organisations. All this on top of the many items in all the classes to see and admire.

The remaining copies of the booklet 'Around Dinas Powys', will be on sale again for £3.50, first published in 1993 by the well respected walks leader, the late George Thomas, and beautifully illustrated by the late Don Offord.

'The Village Trail' within the booklet has been updated as have the five walks in the original edition with new maps.

For more information contact the show chairman on 029 2051 3274 or valhartrey@talktalk.net. AS

Cooking demos at Topstak

TOPSTAK will be holding a series of cooking demonstrations at its Galley Café in the Topstak Vale of Glamorgan showroom, starting on September 2, when the AGA will be the star of the show.

Topstak recently became the exclusive south Wales AGA shop, following the closure of the store in Cardiff. The AGA cookers are on display at the Topstak showroom in Llandow, along with beautiful AGA cookware.

There will be two further dates in October, plus another chance to see the hugely popular

Everhot range cooker put though its paces.

The dates are:

October 11 featuring AGA;

October 21 featuring Everhot;

December 7 – featuring AGA.

Further information from Topstak on 01446 771567, or www.topstak.co.uk.

AS

HISTORIC PUB PLAYS HOST TO FESTIVAL

HISTORIC Llantwit Major pub, The Old Swan Inn, will play host to a four-day beer and cider festival extravaganza over the August bank holiday weekend, showcasing brewers from Wales and further afield.

The Swan, part of the Knife & Fork Food group, will kick off the festival atmosphere at midday on Friday, August 25, with proceedings drawing to a close on the evening of Monday, August 28.

Over the course of the weekend the pub, which dates back to the 12th century, will serve up an array of

eclectic craft beers, ales and refreshing ciders, with brewers on tap including Wales-based VoG and Untapped, and English brewers Great Heck, Three Brothers Brewery, and Brentwood.

The Swan will be serving Knife & Fork's signature meals from the blackboard menu, as well as sharing tapas dishes.

Live music acts will entertain festival goers with at least one act performing every day of the bank holiday weekend, including acoustic rock act Rob Pascoe playing on Saturday August 26, and rock and soul band Jumpin' Jimmy and the Nice Guys performing the next day.

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LOCAL IS LOVELY

Out & About with The GEM

The Dark Tower crumbles apart...

STEPHEN KING is one of the great modern writers of our time, so it's unsurprising that so many of his stories have been adapted for the world of film.

From the sociological horror of *The Mist* to the empowering *The Shawshank Redemption*; from the ice-cold chills of *The Shining* to the gritty teen realism of *Stand By Me* – King's works have fit the big screen like a glove.

With *It* due for release next month, the latest King adaptation is *The Dark Tower*, which sees young Jake (Tom Taylor) experiencing visions of other worlds.

When Jake finds himself dragged into one of these worlds, he meets Roland (Idris Elba), The Last Gunslinger, who is locked in an eternal battle with Walter (Matthew McConaughey), also known as The Man in Black.

The Gunslinger's task is to prevent the Man in Black from toppling the Dark Tower, which holds the universe together, so Jake finds himself helping Roland

in a battle to stop the monsters from outside of our universe claiming earth, and the various other worlds, for themselves...

The Dark Tower has had a long and tortuous road to the big screen, taking on and losing directors and cast members; such a stalled build up to the adaptation of one of King's most prestigious stories doesn't bode well for the end product, yet the response thus far to the film has seen it attacked and vehemently criticised.

Is it that bad? No it certainly isn't, but then neither is it particularly impressive either, a film existing in the ether of mediocrity; not trashy or dumb enough to dislike but not deep and smart enough to truly triumph, it straddles the spectrum without ever truly being one or the other.

It has a good cast, a story that, not being a King fan personally, has seen people long campaign to be adapted for live-action, and an inexperienced director in Nikolaj Arcel whose strengths lie in screenwriting (*The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* among his CV).

Yet the cast is wasted by the machinations of the script, where every

line is heavy with exposition and plot, yet never digs below the surface of the characters, the story ill-served by such a rushed approach. (It's a rare critique these days that a film needs to be longer, but the 95-minute run time is at least 20 minutes too short); and despite some neat little touches, Arcel's inexperience is clear to see.

If Idris Elba and Tom Taylor come out of this with reputations intact – Elba in particular impressive as the weighed-down-by-his-past jaded Gunslinger, while Taylor's Jake never gets the time afforded to his character's development – then Matthew McConaughey disappoints with a pantomime turn that lacks menace and malevolence (one moment aside).

He's a cookie-cutter villain, and one named Walter to boot, unconvincing and lacking.

The story required deft handling, given how much plot there was that needed to be set up – the universe of Gunslingers, people with the 'shine' and the importance of the Tower to the universe – yet it instead, you have a

sees fit to simply skim over the main details through the characters' various conversations.

If you've read the books, then you may have a better sense of what's going on, but those not versed in the ways of the *The Dark Tower* series on page

film that may make sense to aficionados, but will leave the casual observer baffled and left with a head spinning from the excessive exposition. It's not an offensive film by any means – but *The Dark Tower* is an undercooked disappointment.

VERDICT – Flat and joyless, *The Dark Tower* isn't a bad film, it's just not a particularly good one. Far too heavy on exposition and not enough depth to the universe makes it lacking, and director Nikolaj Arcel's inexperience is evident. Idris Elba and Tom

Taylor make for a likeable and engaging lead pair, but them aside, there's very little to hold your attention. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Magnificent Seven* (2016), *Time Bandits* (1981).



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Bigger and better than ever: THAT'S PENFEST 2017!

THE ninth annual music festival in Penmark – better known as PenFest – takes place on Saturday, September 2.

A festival spokesman said the village provides a perfect setting for what will be its most ambitious event ever.

"The festival site is in an orchard with the ivy-clad remains of Penmark Castle as a backdrop.

"The event will go ahead whatever the weather because we have plenty of marquees lined up; it doesn't matter whether people want shade because of the sun, or shelter because of rain, all eventualities are taken care of."

Large numbers of festival-goers can be accommodated, too.

"There is plenty of space at the car park of the Six Bells public house, and an overflow car park will be available in an adjacent field."

The star-studded line-up for this year includes The Acoustix, The Divine Miss Em, Tom Jones Reloaded!, The Flares and many more. Aubrey Parsons will be the compere on the day.

The performers will have all the back-up they need. The spokesman explained: "The stage, sound system and lighting equipment have all been arranged and sponsored by JPL Sound.

"There will be food and refreshments available, a fully

licensed bar and toilet facilities. There will be bales of hay to sit on, but if people would like to bring their own chairs they are welcome."

There will be lots of entertainment and fun activities for children including a bouncy castle, a giant Connect 4 game and football.

At around 9.30pm the skies above Penmark will be lit up with a firework display. The event runs from noon until 11.55pm.

If people order tickets up to a week before the event, it will be £10 per adult (under-12s are free). After that the price increases to £15.

For ticket information, go to www.penfest.yolasite.com.

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6:45PM The Divine Miss Em

6PM Ragsy

5PM The Universal Translators

4PM The Acoustix

3PM Tobias Robinson

2:15PM Cath Jones

1:30PM Ellie & Christie

www.penfest.co.uk



DRAWING AND PAINTING WORKSHOP

THE Knap Community Action Group are presenting a free drawing and painting workshop on August 26.

Bring your pencils, paints and pads and join professional artist Glyn Pooley for a friendly, tutored painting workshop at the Knap Lake and Gardens in Barry. All levels are welcome from complete beginner to professional and some materials are provided. Meet under the large shelters at the promenade end of the lake.

For more information email glyn@glynpooley.com or facebook @ glynpooley.

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*See website for details

Buddy Up network in appeal for CALM



Lydia Jones (Working Word PR)
Nathan Price (Trivallis)
and Lynsey Holly-Matthews (Jehu).

A LEADING Welsh property and construction firm has called upon its network of property professionals from across the country to swap hi-vis and hard hats for swimming goggles, cycling shorts and running shoes – to raise vital funds for male suicide prevention charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) in the Wales Property Triathlon.

The annual triathlon, now in its fifth year, organised by family firm Jehu Group, is in aid of the group's chosen charity. This year, the event will raise funds for CALM, in a bid to help stop male suicide, the leading cause of death for men aged 20 to 49 across the UK. Jehu have supported this charity since the loss of a respected and popular co-worker in July 2016.

The company has also held a charity band night in aid of CALM at Tramshed, Cardiff.

Staff from the Jehu Group and Waterstone Homes, together with many of their clients including Principality Building Society, Berry Smith, Coastal Housing Group and Trivallis plan to take part in the sprint triathlon, which involves a 500m swim in Pencoed swimming pool, 20k bike ride and 5k run in the Bridgend area.

A spokesperson said

MP's advice surgeries

MP for Ogmore, Chris Elmore will hold advice surgeries in September at the following dates and places.

September 8, 10am – 11am Cwm Calon Community Hub, Maesteg (with AM Huw Irranca-Davies).

September 9, 3.30pm – 10.30am Old Ambulance Hall, Llanharry.

September 15, 4pm – 5pm Bettws Life Centre.

September 22, 2pm – 4pm a Smart Meter advice surgery (with AM Huw Irranca-Davies) at Green Hall, Cefn Cribwr.

For further information call 01656 860034.

Campaigner's call for public to support 'council-tax charities'

A humanitarian campaigner is determined to help communities in developing countries – by ensuring people can make voluntary donations to support causes via their council tax.

Over a number of years, Godfrey Knight has held a number of events in Barry to raise funds for the people of Haiti. The country suffered an earthquake in 2010 leaving an estimated 168,000 people dead.

Mr Knight wants to see councils being given the powers to collect money to pass on to charities, and he has had initial meetings with a number of prominent politicians to explain how it would work.

It may require legislation, but he thinks that if the will is there, it can be achieved.

He said: "The idea is that people, if they wish, would be able to make a voluntary donation to a particular cause alongside their council tax payment.

"Members of the public would be able to nominate causes and councillors could then debate which ones would be on the council forms for the following year."

People would then be able to tick a box and state an amount.

Mr Knight said: "I understand that some people may not be able to afford to make a payment, but others would."

Mr Knight's individual concern is that there are huge numbers of children in the Third



Godfrey Knight.

World who are not receiving the same medical support as those in more developed countries. He believes an extra stream of finance collected via council tax would speed up projects.

"Millions has been invested in the development of drugs and they are waiting to be used."

He points out that the vaccine to protect children from rotavirus costs £2, and it costs 15p to protect children from measles.

Mr Knight says the co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, is an inspiration in this area. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has invested billions of dollars into vaccine initiatives.

According to the foundation – "One in five children worldwide are not fully protected with even the most basic vaccines."

"As a result, an estimated 1.5 million children die each year – one every 20 seconds – from vaccine-preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia."

Godfrey wants to form a committee of like-minded people to campaign for charitable donations via council tax.

Those interested can contact him on 01446 749727.

Dog of the Week: Tilly

TILLY is a one-year-old Jack Russell, who has all the characteristics of her type – bright, active and fun-loving.



She is an outgoing girl, loves to go exploring, and also enjoys socialising with other dogs and having a good play!

Tilly is looking for a home where she will get all the exercise she requires to keep her happy. She can live with children aged 14 years and above, with no young visiting children.

So if you are a Jack Russell fan, then she could be the one for you!

For more information on Tilly, visit Dogs Trust Bridgend (CF31 4NG); or call 01656 725219. You can also go to our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

JA

AM's SURGERIES

HUW Irranca-Davies, AM for Ogmore will hold advice surgeries on the following dates: Thursday, August 31, 12.30pm to 1.30pm in The Café, Bettws Life Centre, Bettws Road, Bettws, Bridgend (CF32 8TB).

The same day, August 31, 4.30pm to 5.30pm in Ogmore Vale Life Centre, Aber Road, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend (CF32 7AJ).

FONMON APIARY NEWS Matchmaking in the bee world: how to get a lost swarm back with a queen

WELL, I have had some honey and I might yet get a little more. I do, however, make sure that it is the bees that keep the major share.

As ever it is the weather that dominates and provides the control factor in the beekeeping world. Unsettled is the best description for it but the colonies are very active when things are suitable.

One of the colonies is still in a nuc-box (a small version of a hive), it is the remnants of a colony that was removed with great difficulty from between the joists of a flat garage roof.

Transferring the comb and bees to a hive box went well enough but of course it did upset the colony a great deal.

In fact on returning the next day all of the bees were discovered on the ground just below the flat roof, a lot of them were busy cleaning out the remaining honey from between the roof joists so we left them at it.

So far they are holding on, but there is no sign of a queen in residence. The obvious and best solution is to unite them with one of the other colonies that does have a queen, and this will at least secure their survival.

How will I unite them? Well, it will take place of an evening; the chosen colony will have the roof removed and the cover board lifted off.

This will expose the frames and bees; next, a sheet of newspaper will be spread over the exposed frames and bees and another section of a hive will be

happy to oblige and so we left them to it.

On returning the next day (towards evening) the bees had vacated the nuc-box and could be seen on the ground nearby. Did they have a queen? Impossible to tell, but not very likely.

Once again they were eager to enter an offered nuc-box, only this time I waited until they were all in and then closed it up and it now resides at Fonmon Apiary where I am feeding it and boosting the numbers with frames of sealed brood (bees waiting to emerge) taken from one of the very active colonies.

So far they are holding on, but there is no sign of a queen in residence. The obvious and best solution is to unite them with one of the other colonies that does have a queen, and this will at least secure their survival.

How will I unite them? Well, it will take place of an evening; the chosen colony will have the roof removed and the cover board lifted off.

This will expose the frames and bees; next, a sheet of newspaper will be spread over the exposed frames and bees and another section of a hive will be

added. Several small holes will be made in the paper cover then the frames from the smaller colony will be transferred to this added box.

Being a smaller colony they won't have enough frames to fill the box so I will fill up the space with a purpose-made blanking frame.

On will go the cover board plus the roof, and over a couple of days the bees above and below the paper insert will chew through it and it is the norm for both lots of bees to accept one another and it seldom fails to work.

Preparation for winter is going to be the next major change in the apiary; the colonies will take the first step when the time is right and the beekeeper will observe the ladies casting out the drones (males) who will not be required because there will be no swarming – hence no new queens to be mated.

Will the winter be cold enough to shut the bees down? Warmer winters will see the colonies still very active; climate change is a noticeable factor in the beekeeping world.

HAROLD WILLIAMS



Huw Irranca-Davies and Chris Rowe (president of Airborne Systems), are flanked by former engineering apprentices, Ryan Lewis and Ryan Morris, who are now full time employees of the company.

OGMORE AM PRAISES LOCAL FIRM'S SUCCESS

NESTLING in the bottom of the valley in Llangeinor is a quiet success story for Ogmore, Wales, and the rest of the UK.

The Queen's Award for Enterprise winner, Airborne Systems, is setting high standards for aerial deliverability and survivability systems, and winning export orders across the world.

Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies has paid a visit to hear of their success and plans for the future. On a previous visit, accompanying Prince Charles, he

had met several new apprentices, and the latest visit was also a chance to catch up on their progress with a company that believe in developing their own workforce.

Huw said: "I'm proud to have Airborne Systems here in Ogmore, with a highly skilled and loyal workforce making and maintaining products which save lives right across the globe."

"They are truly world-leading, and a fantastic ambassador for Wales and the UK."

Celtic beat Cowbridge Seconds

A week of heavy rain gave way to bright breezy conditions for Cowbridge Cricket Club's Division 5 clash against Maesteg Celtic.

With a drying wicket and a slow, moist outfield, batting promised to be a challenge, and so it proved.

Batting first, Maesteg made cautious, slow progress against accurate bowling by Gilbert and Hordley, the latter removing both openers, including the dangerous Morris, neatly caught behind by Gascoyne for 21.

Jones (19) and Richards (37) dug in to rebuild, blocking over after over of tight bowling by Naved, Sian Russell and Parker.

Their departure, with Maesteg on 75 for 4 heralded a spectacular batting collapse.

The main tormentor was Will Harris. Bamboozling the batsmen with his mean line and subtle variety of pace, Harris took four wickets for just 12 runs in his five overs.

Good catches by Webb, Hordley and Gilbert, together with some inspired all-round fielding helped immensely to keep up the pressure as evergreen Ian Evans mopped up the tail with a quick brace, leaving the home side just 102 to win.

The home side's hopes of a quick victory were, however, stifled first by being locked out

of their changing room for almost an hour, and then by a curmudgeonly Maesteg attack which restricted the scoring to 20 for 2 off 11 overs, Colston removing both Naved and Webb.

Gascoyne (34) led the recovery but was brilliantly run out going for a sharp single.

Thereafter it was a tale of batting woe as successive batsmen succumbed to the stranglehold of accurate bowling, attempting to pierce the close ring of keen fielders. Ciroco took three wickets, Morris two as only one batsman reached double figures.

GP

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

BRING BACK THE ROUNDABOUTS!

FOllowing your article on traffic lights (The GEM, page 5, August 10), I would suggest that they are the most unnecessary and inefficient form of traffic control ever invented.

I seem to spend accumulative hours waiting in traffic for the lights to follow their robotic procedure – regardless of whether traffic is present or not, with long periods on empty crossroads.

When they do change, only three or four cars manage to escape.

What's wrong with roundabouts? They are dynamic and effective, allowing a continuous free flow of

traffic, with rarely a queue or delay. They are cheap to install and maintain.

The latest plethora of lights at the Island 'relief' road is already holding traffic up where no problem existed before.

Wait until the sun comes out on the next bank holiday!

Time is money; how many billions of pounds are lost to our economy by lorries, traders, buses, taxis, commuters and professionals sitting in queues at lights?

Not to mention the health hazards of stationary and stop-start vehicles polluting the atmosphere.

Bring back roundabouts as soon as possible!

Richard Davies, Barry.

In memory of Katie-Sue

Roger and Sue Grocott and Mike Guthrie and families would like to thank everyone who attended Katie-Sue's funeral on July 14, at All Saints' Church in Barry (especially Father Kev), for their kindness, generosity, and consideration.

Before and since Katie's passing people have been so supportive

and helpful, especially so for Katie and Mike's children, Daisy and Ollie.

We have recently received a letter from Velindre Cancer Centre charity, thanking everybody for the donations made at the church of £1,725.39 in memory of Katie.

Also £436.91 has been raised by Mason Guthrie's web page, and £601.63 from the 'bucket collection' at the funeral, £50 donated anonymously, and £350

PS: a special mention to Father Kev, who is very committed to getting his church roof repaired asap (hint).

Roger and Sue Grocott

'Time for teamwork, not another EU Referendum'

IFELT that I had to write in response to Jean Silvan Evans' letter regarding Brexit.

The vote has been cast and the results are there so stop moaning. Do we keep voting until you get the result you want? That's not democracy.

PARKING DISRUPTION

WHEN I was learning to drive, I was not allowed to reverse onto a main road.

At Broad Street, Barry, the road has been narrowed and to park you have to either reverse into the parking place or reverse out.

Either way, you are disrupting the traffic on both sides of a very busy main road.

The zebra crossing has also been moved to the edge of Market Street, and zigzags put across the entrance to Market Street.

Who in the highways planning department thought this would be a good idea? Mrs C Bates, Barry.

Plants Fair
ON Saturday, September 2 from 10am – 4pm at Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge (CF71 7AH) an unusual plants fair will take place.

Meet your local growers. The cream of Welsh specialist nurseries are bringing you their prime plants, sensibly priced, from herbaceous perennials to hardy nursery stock.

There's plenty of professional advice on care and planting of your purchases.

Free entry, free parking - for further information call 01446 774036.



Brynteg Cottage, Treoes, Vale of Glamorgan, CF35 5DL. £149,950

- Stone built extended semi-detached cottage.
- Entrance Hall. Spacious Lounge/Dining Room. Kitchen. Rear Hall/Utility Room.
- Spacious Ground Floor Bathroom.
- 2 Double Bedrooms. First Floor Cloakroom.
- Gravelled Forecourt and Rear Garden.
- Freehold. No Chain.

Cowbridge
01446 772911

Biomass deadline is extended

NATURAL Resources Wales has extended a consultation deadline relating to a licence application by the Biomass UK No2 Ltd plant at Barry docks.

John Wheaton, of Natural Resources Wales, said: "We understand that applications of this kind are highly technical, and we want to make sure everyone has adequate time to consider their response to our consultation."

"Following careful consideration, and discussions with the local community and politicians interested in this application, we have decided to extend the deadline until September 10."

"We will continue to work closely with the Docks Incinerator Action Group to make sure they fully understand the new information we've received, and to give them an opportunity to raise the concerns local people have shared with them."

Maisie (14) a star for Wales

MAISIE HARRHY, a pupil at St Richard Gwyn school, Barry, recently represented Welsh Basketball under-16 girls at the FIBA European Championships in Gibraltar.

This was a great achievement, as she's just 14 years of age.

The team missed out on the bronze medal, after losing to a strong team from Georgia in the third place play-offs.

Maisie also competed for the under-14s in Gibraltar, coming away with the honour of runner-up MVP!

Maisie plays for Cardiff Met Archers Girls, as well as the Vale Vipers.



TH

Beavers take home three medals...

THREE members of Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club recently competed in Sheffield at the Special Olympics.

They were Heather Williams, Gareth Lloyd, and Mark Eveleigh. Heather competed in boccia, Gareth in gymnastics, and Mark in golf, and all came home with medals.

A spokesperson said: "The swimming club and the committee would like to say you all did really well and should be proud of yourselves – you are a credit to the club."

"Well done to all and congratulations on your achievements."

The swimming club will resume sessions on September 2 and will be back to doing timings for the regional gala on September 16.

Vital win for Barry Central

ROATH Park were the visitors to Gladstone Gardens for the CML Division 6 fixture on Saturday against Barry Central who were hoping for a victory to avoid relegation.

The hosts started on the attack straight away with Roath struggling to get going with the pressure put on them by the Central bowlers who eventually ran out worthy winners.

The game carried on with Roath struggling to get going with the pressure put on them by the Central bowlers who eventually ran out worthy winners.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

THE GLENBROOK INN Comfort food – whatever the season

ASK any professional restaurant reviewer worth their salt "What's the first rule?" and they might reply: "Choose something seasonal."

And at the refurbished The Glenbrook Inn in Barry, my dining companion and I did just that.

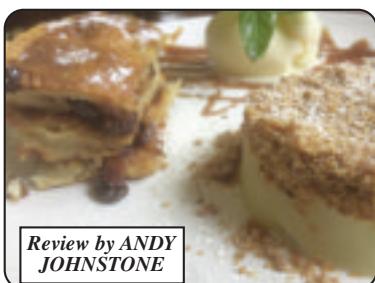
We were ushered into the dining room by friendly staff Nereesa and Hannah, yet we focused on the two-sided fireplace, square in the centre of the room.

We immediately wanted comfort food, and imagined ourselves basking in the glow of that fire's flickering radiance on a frosty winter's afternoon. Already, we knew a return visit would be in order.

Back to summer and our choices...

The whitebait was a seasonal must, served and enjoyed with a fragrant lemon mayonnaise. My companion opted for filled potato skins served with an engagingly aromatic home-made tomato salsa.

We shared the dishes,



Review by ANDY JOHNSTONE

A plate of puds to please the palate.

but so bounteous was each plate that we were obliged to leave a little for our main courses.

My companion selected a trio of faggots – slathered in a rich, glossy gravy with a jug of the same on the side – and chips rather than mash.

Made by a local butcher, they looked and smelt exquisite. They tasted it, too.

I picked – my taste buds are alive at the memory – slow-roasted pork belly on black pudding mash.

A bank holiday crackled, the sweet, soft pork fell apart seemingly at the sight of my fork and the mash was this foodie's dream.

We could not finish these generous portions,

and had little room for pudding. We asked for small, taster portions of the home-made fruit crumble and bread-and-butter pudding, with a scoop of ice cream.

The crumble, particularly, was a revelation. Not pureed apple beneath pack-ice hard sugar, butter and flour, but large, gently stewed pieces of apple still *al dente* beneath dust-fine spiced crumble topping. Yumbles.

A bank holiday approaches. Come rain, shine, tempest or calm, pop over to The Glenbrook Inn for a feast this weekend and dine like a king or queen for less than £20 a person, not including drinks from an extensive range of wines, beers and ales.

Outdoor session for camera club

Southerndown, by Pat Hollis.



AT Barry Camera Club's meeting in July, 10 people joined Roy Carr for a landscape session at Southerndown.

For some, it was an opportunity to just get out with their cameras and do their own thing, using their existing skills and knowledge, a *club spokesperson* writes.

For others, the evening provided a chance to have some tips and pointers from Roy, who has a particular passion for landscape photography.

Pat Hollis and Heulwen Roberts were particularly keen to do this, and Pat came away with a shot down the coast with which she was particularly pleased.

On Sunday, July 9, six members visited Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire. It was a 5am start, but the weather was kind so that meant the boat could sail. There was plenty to see, including razorbills, fulmars, kittiwakes, swallows, wheatears, seals and, of course, the delightful puffins.

It was a challenge trying to get photos of the puffins in flight, but several members managed this feat. We all came with some lovely photos of the island and its inhabitants. Thanks to Phil Stillman for organising another successful wildlife outing.

We finished the season with a showing of images from throughout the summer season which

included photos from the above mentioned outings and also evenings spent photographing at The Knap and Cardiff Bay barrage.

There was a good variety of quality images, some of which should do well in upcoming competitions.

Barry Camera Club will resume meetings at the start of the new season in September. It meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry (CF62 6NX).

For more information, visit the club's website www.barrycameroclub.co.uk or check out the Facebook and Twitter pages.

Rugby the winner in Lyn Dolman memorial game

ON a beautiful sunny afternoon only blighted by a strong westerly wind, Llantwit Major RFC made a good account of themselves against Bridgend Athletic RFC at the Recreation Ground for the Lyn Dolman memorial game.

The visitors eventually pulled away in the last quarter to win the game 17-22 after stubborn resistance by the home side.

The Athletic, which play some three divisions higher than Llantwit in Division 1, were fielding a slightly dubious Development XV and started the game playing towards the School End.

The first quarter was a game of attrition as both teams competed for dominance with neither side allowing for any continuity with powerful defensive lines.

In the scrummage, the Llantwit coaches must have been quietly pleased with their performance as they dominated the early exchanges with captain Geraint David causing his opponent no end of problems in the front row.

The deadlock was eventually broken as the Athletic used an extended period of dominance and won over.

But Llantwit were quick to respond as some pressure of their own brought a penalty kick from Lestyn Jones, which was shortly added to with a further seven points as youth player Evan Holloway marked his debut for the senior team with a peach of a try.

The move started inside the Llantwit half as fullback Wise Vakacegù collected a ball and, evading some covering defence, took the play over the halfway line, some lovely passing with player/coach Stuart Edbrooke took the move on before Edbrooke released Holloway from the wing.

The youngster still having plenty to do then jinked his way inside the defence and pinned his ears back as he raced away and went under the posts.

The try converted by Jones to take the lead at 10-7.

The lead though as the sides changed ends was short lived with the Athletic using a very efficient maul went over twice from driving lines out.

This was followed in the last quarter with another try put victory

COWBRIDGE BOWLS CLUB ROUND-UP

THE week's diary reads as follows:

Monday, August 14 - Men's Evening Triples Game at home to Pencoed, match cancelled due to heavy rain.

Tuesday, August 15, the ladies played Mount Pleasant at their home green in a friendly in Beddau, losing on all rinks. Match score Cowbridge 31, Mount Pleasant 63.

Wednesday, August 16, the men travelled to Sully Sports for their Munro Cup game.

Rink scores: Mansel Davey, Ken Payne, Gerry Lloyd and Dennis Snelling 14-16; Jim Hewlett, Ron Dobie, Norman Wilkinson and Colin Wilson 13-20; Owen Hopkin, Bryan Hole, Terry Dunsworth and Alan Wallace 15-16; Terry Foley, John Collin, Bob Penn and Clive Pritchard 11-23. Match score Cowbridge 54, Sully Sports 75.

Thursday, August 17, away again and this time the ladies were playing Cadoxton in a league game.

Although Cowbridge won on two of the three rinks points were deducted from one rink as we were one player short.

Rink scores: Corrie Buffon, Tina Payne, Lynda Wilson and Diane Lloyd 16-13; Janet Morton, Dorothy Pritchard and Joan Bradley 9-7-10; Diane Purnell, Sylvia Hole and Phyllis Price and Joy Woolford 11-19. Match

score Cowbridge 36.75, Cadoxton 42.

On Saturday, August 19, the men were away at the top of the Rhondda Valley in Blaenrhondda for the last away league game of the season.

Although Cowbridge won on two of the rinks, earning four points we lost on the other two.

Rink scores: Gerry Lloyd, Ron Dobie, Dennis Snelling and Clive Pritchard 6-40; Mansel Davey, Bryan Hole, Rob Lewis and Roger Barwick 25-23; Terry Dunsworth, John Wathees, Brian Williams and Bob Penn 20-17; Tom Purnell, John Collin, Colin Wilson and Norman Wilkinson 15-25. Match score Cowbridge 66, Blaenrhondda 105.

We are at home this Saturday, August 26, to Rhoose in the last league game on the season.

The club's own triples competition starts with preliminaries this Friday with the finals being played out on Sunday and Monday.

On Sunday, August 13, our ladies - Lynda Wilson, Tina Payne, Sandra Collin, Shirley Wilkinson, Dorothy Pritchard, Corrie Buffon and Sylvia Hole - competed in an annual Whitchurch charity match.

Out of the 28 teams entered, our team of Lynda, Tina, Sandra and Shirley came fourth.

The proceeds from the event were in aid of Alzheimer's Society Cymru.

MB

Pencoed Phoenix impress in a pre-season encounter

THIS pre-season training match between Pencoed Phoenix and Ynysddu ladies was played over four 20 minute periods, with very little let up from the considerable rain over the course of the match.

Phoenix opened the match by scoring within five minutes - scrum half Amy Stevens in pursuit of her own kick ahead getting the touchdown wide out.

The home side soon got a second, centre Rhian Nokes plucking the ball out of the air on the interception one handed to go clear.

Phoenix then got their third try of the opening quarter, outside half Emma Meredith showing good ball skills, trapping a difficult dropping ball before putting Phoenix in prime position and recycled possession from the home pack saw Natalie O'Shea force her way over the try line, Meredith adding the extras.

A 40-metre counter attack from home full back Megan Griffiths put Phoenix on the attack midway through the second quarter and winning the ball against the head from the resultant scrum saw Stevens capitalising, driven over by her forwards at the posts, Meredith converting.

Phoenix centre Leanne Burnell then showed her running skills early in the third quarter, fielding a clearance kick some 35 metres out before racing

around wide of the defence and cutting back inside to score at the posts, Meredith converting.

A barnstorming, arcing 40 metre run from O'Shea gave Phoenix their third try at the end of the third quarter.

To their credit and despite the 36-0 scoreline Ynysddu still went in search of a score and pounded the Phoenix try line through their big pack, but the home side showed great determination to keep them out.

Phoenix then went on to finish the match strongly with a further two tries, Nokes fielding a well-measured crossfield kick from Meredith to score wide out and Stevens wrapped matters up bursting clear through the middle of a lineout and evading a couple of defenders to score from 40 metres, Meredith adding the conversion to bring the match to a close.

This was a most satisfying opener for Phoenix as a number of the more established squad members were unavailable and emergent eligible under-18 players - Caitlin Jones, Caitlin Smith, Amber Carmody, Carys Baker, Megan Griffiths, and Laura Keeble - did not let Phoenix down.

Also debutants Sarah Payne and Emma Meredith proved valuable additions to the Pencoed Phoenix squad.

TR

Windsor PG1 team on brink of promotion

THE Penarth Windsor PG1 team picked up 10 league points in defeating Penarth by 100 to 65.

The visitors gave a spirited display and managed to win on two

rinks. There was a mammoth win for captain Matt which included a full house of eight shots on one end.

The victory for Windsor means that they only need to pick up four points from their remaining three matches to gain promotion while Penarth still have an outside chance of going up with them.

Scores: Evans, Gooding, Hope and Woodcock 41-10; Flitney, Palfrey, Hudson and McLeod 20-10; Matthews, Burton, Gunter and Holmes 19-22; Rogers, Ellard, Rees and Close 20/23.

Not to be outdone, the PG2 team came away from Sophia Gardens with an excellent win over Cardiff by 18 shots. Scores: Meredith, Johnson, Woodcock and Davies D. 22-13; Davies A, Daniel, Latham and Lewis 24-9; Owens, Hailes, Morris and Howells 20-15; Trenchard, Dudley, Coleman and Thorne 13-24.

With the shot score now being level everything all depended on Peter Taylor and his rink doing the business.

At 15 ends, Peter led 14-12 and scored three on the 16th end to lead 17-12.

However, the home side were not going down without a fight and two fours in quick succession gave the home side a three-shot lead after 18 ends.

Peter and his rink responded in style and, with a 4 and a 1 on the 19th and 20th ends, had a two-shot lead on the final end.

Despite the best efforts of the home side, they hung on to win by one shot on the rink and one shot overall, 83 to 82, taking 12 points to 2 points.

A very big well done to all players on both sides.

PM

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News update from the Millwood Bowls Club

FOR the final Munro Cup fixture of the summer, Millwood made the short journey to Sully to play Sully Sports.

The evening promised very little on the weather front, but undaunted, all players put their best foot forward and were rewarded with a dry but overcast evening.

As for the game itself, after five ends the scoring was level at 16-16; however, over the next five ends the home side edged into a narrow lead 38-33 shots, and slowly but surely, despite the best efforts of the Millwood rinks, the home side gradually pulled clear on three rinks.

This was despite the efforts of Gary Williams and his rink who had a convincing win by 21 shots to 12; the remaining three rinks lost giving the home team a comfortable victory by 71 shots to 51, taking 12 of the 14 points on offer, a disappointing end to the season for Millwood.

Many thanks to all members for their support - there is always next season to look forward to.

Saturday saw the club side travel to Rhoose for a Division 4 match and with promotion tantalisingly close, there was everything to play for.

Playing on the carpet, as opposed to our more normal grass surface, the team approach the match in cautious mode and as events unfolded throughout the afternoon a very wise move indeed it proved to be.

After the first five ends, Millwood held

MB

The Alliance team maintained their record for the season with yet another defeat but as they always say: the Alliance games are not all about winning!

It was a big defeat to a strong Penyfan team but there was a rink win for Stafford, Brenton, Johnson and Morgan.

The last Munro Cup game of the season ended in a home loss to Dinas Powys. The only winning rink was Evans, Palfrey, Hope and Woodcock M.

It has been only a moderately successful season for the Munro Cup team but it has at least given a number of the newer club bowlers a chance to experience a higher level of bowls than they normally enjoy.

Last, but not least, to the ladies and it was yet another fine win for the Afternoon League team at home to Kenfig and Pyle.

A 24-7 win for Moyra Owen with J. Williams, B. Dunlop and S. Howells. L. Thomas, C. Gunter D. Thomas and C. Davies, C. Fitzgerald, D. Roper, K. Dyer.

Star billing goes to Tommy Owens with a brilliant display of lead bowling. It will do no harm to his constant demands for a PG1 place.

CLBr

Chepstow remembers legendary Sir Gordon

THE legendary jockey Sir Gordon Richards, who in 1933 rode 11 consecutive winners at Chepstow Racecourse, is to be officially remembered by the track's management.

A race is to be named in his honour at the Welsh racecourse on Bank Holiday Monday, August 28.

The two-mile race, with prize money of £20,000, will be sponsored by Oakgrove Stud, which is located next to the racecourse. Its owner, John Deer, has owned numerous top class horses, including Al Kazeem and Avonbridge.

In the autumn of 1933, 29-year-old Richards was trying hard to beat Fred Archer's record of 246 winners in a Pinza and in that week became the first jockey to be knighted.

AH

BRIAN LEE

Barry War Museum remembers life in the 1940s during World War Two at open day

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

EARLIER this month, the Barry War Museum at Barry Island Railway Station held a 1940s wartime-themed open day.

The day was organised by the Barry at War group, and crowds flocked to see the World War Two re-enactors, who were joined by military history enthusiasts. Visitors to the museum could visit the World War One trench, and see the 1940s kitchen.

Outside, there was musical entertainment, with dance from local Lindy Hoppers and jive fans, with a period fashion parade as well. See www.barrywarmuseum.org.uk for more information.



Schoolchildren bolster the entries at 41st Coychurch Horticultural Show



ABOVE: The main overall points winner, Stephen Wilson, won the Cliff Hunt Cup.

AT Coychurch Gardening Society's 41st annual Horticultural Show in the Williams Memorial Hall, on August 19, there were 174 entries from 35 individual adult competitors, with a further 88 entries coming from Llangrallio School in the children's section.

There was much to see and enjoy once again and and, of course, a well-stocked refreshment room. Thanks to everyone who visited the show.

The recent wet and windy weather impacted slightly on the floral displays this year but what was displayed was quite magnificent. In the baking section, the vegetable cake class contained some very interesting ingredients and was well supported, as was the photography class (sunrise/sunset) with 14 entries.

As ever, the school came up trumps with a staggering 88 entries ranging through scarecrows, seaside pictures and 'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary' pictures. The judges were very impressed with the standards achieved in the preserves section this year.

So well done to those who gave it a go. Once again, we have to recognize that without the support of our judges, the show would not be able to take place and all enjoy seeing the quality of the exhibits at Coychurch. Our judges do not charge for their services and so we invite them to join us in a light lunch after judging - this lunch was donated by Jackie and Dave of Brynffrwdf Close.

On behalf of the committee, grateful thanks to all who help to set up and clean up afterwards at the hall, and those who manage the refreshments area. Grateful thanks,

especially to everyone who donated raffle prizes including local businesses, notably Route 66, and Bridge House Garage. Thanks also to Lower Coychurch community councillor Jayne Brace and Mrs Linda Williams, who presented the prizes.

RESULTS

Flowers

Specimen Rose: 1 Paula Wilson; 2 Evie Charlesworth; 3 Karen Charlesworth.

Vase of roses: 1 Thelma Taylor; 2 Linda Love; 3 Paula Wilson.

Dahlias, 3 blooms one of each variety: 1 Susy Philip; 2 and 3 Eirlys Cuming.

Dahlias, 3 blooms one variety: 1 and 2 Eirlys Cuming; 3 Susy Philip.

Sweet Peas: 1 Ann Beresford; 2 Pam Podd; 3 Paula Wilson.

Gladioli 1 spike: 1 Paula Wilson; 2 Glenda Williams.

Vase of mixed cut flowers: 1 Eirlys Cuming; 2 Janet Owen; 3 Susy Philip.

Vase of annuals, one variety: 1 and 2 Jan Gosney; 3 Myra Nash.

Foliage pot plant: 1 Colin Burston; 2 Susan Martin; 3 Colin Burston.

Cacti/Succulent: 1 and 2 Colin Burston; 3 Steve Wilson; HC Paula Wilson.

Flowering pot plant: 1 Paula Wilson; 2 Myra Nash; HC Marilyn Dennis.

Photography: 1 and 2 Brian Sewell; joint 3 Paulyn Thomas and Myra Nash.

Preserves

Jam: 1 Jan Gosney; 2 Sarah Wald; 3 Myra Nash; HC Marilyn Dennis.

Jelly: 1 and 2 Jan Gosney; 3 Marilyn Dennis.

Marmalade: 1 Marilyn Dennis.

Six mounted Fuchsia heads: 1 Karen Charlesworth; 2 Paula Wilson; 3 Susan Martin.

Vegetables and fruit

Six runner beans: 1 Steve Wilson; 2 Bruce Nash.

Three onions from sets: 1 and 2 Steve Wilson.

Five potatoes: 1 Bruce Nash; 2 Steve Wilson.

Five vegetables - one of each variety: 1 Steve Wilson.

Display of your own seasonal produce: 1 Steve Wilson.

Five cherry tomatoes: 1 Jan Gosney; 2 Steve Wilson; 3 Jan Gosney.

Five tomatoes: 1 Jan Gosney; 2 Myra Nash; 3 Bruce Nash.

One cucumber: 1 Steve Charlesworth; 2

Wilson; 2 Bruce Nash.

Three courgettes: 1

Steve Wilson.

Small Bowl of Soft

Fruit: 1 Janet Owen; 2

Bruce Nash.

Longest Runner Bean: 1

Steve Wilson.

Three eating apples: 1

Pam Podd; 2 Susan

Martin; 3 Jan Gosney.

Three cooking apples: 1

Jeremy Martin.

An unusual shaped

vegetable: 1 Jan Gosney;

2 and 3 Steve Wilson.

A pair of vegetables not

listed above: 1 Steve

Wilson; 2 Clare Martin;

3 Bruce Nash.

Flower arranging

Your favourite pub: 1

Marion Harris; 2 Myra

Nash.

In an unusual container:

1 Marion Harris; 2 Sarah

Wald; 3 Sarah Wald; HC

Myra Nash.

Cup and Saucer: 1 Paula

Wilson; 2 Pam Podd; 3

Paula Wilson.

Arts and crafts

Stitchcraft: 1 Christine

Bowen; 2 Sian Sewell; 3

Sarah Wald.

Artwork: 1 Sandra

Lazarus; 2 Ann

Beresford; 3 Sarah Wald.

Handicraft: 1 Christine

Bowen; 2 Karen

Williams; 3 Janet Owen.

Photography: 1 and 2

Brian Sewell; joint 3

Paulyn Thomas and

Myra Nash.

Christine Burn; 3 Janet

Owen.

Three rolls: 1 Jeremy

Martin; 2 Steve Wilson;

3 Steve Wilson.

Three cheese scones: 1

Deryn Martin; 2 Steve

Wilson.

Children's competitions

A picture of Mary, Mary,

Quite Contrary (up to

age 7): 1 Nancy Wald; 2

Holly John; 3 Jessica

Mulligan; Highly

Commended: Darcey

Field, Alice Whitelock,

Logan Lovell.

Picture of a seaside

landscape: 1 Jacob

Martin; 2 Regan Bekker

Jackson; 3 Sophia

Thomas; Highly

Commended: Lydia

Davies, Macey Ball,

Grace Griffith.

A Mini Scarecrow (age

7-11): 1 Riley Jones; 2

Jack West; 3 Rhys

Thomas. Highly

Commended: Daisy

Wald, Edward Yip,

Daisy Lewis.

Four portions of Tarmac

(age 7-11): 1 Daisy

Wald; 2 Evie

Charlesworth.

Cliff Hunt Cup - Best in

show overall points,

Steve Wilson.

The Claire Cuthbert

Memorial Award -

children's classes, Nancy

Wald.

Front Garden winners

First Cherry Croft - Dr

and Mrs Philip; second,

35, Glenwood Close,

Mrs Margaret Andrews;

joint third, 36, Glenwood

Close, Mrs Ann Jones,

and 1, Heol Cae Tyla,

Philip Davies.



Sixth forms 'under review' in Bridgend

THE future of sixth forms at comprehensive schools throughout Bridgend has been put under the microscope by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

In a response to an FoI request from Regional AM Suzy Davies, BCBC confirmed that it is currently undertaking a review of post-16 education with all stakeholders. They say that options will probably be put out to public consultation by the end of the year. The council has made no decision yet.

The largest sixth form is at Brynteg which has 377 pupils currently, followed by Porthcawl with 262 pupils. The smallest sixth form is at Cynffig which has 76 pupils.

Commenting, Conservative Mrs Davies said: "Post-16 education remains a challenge as schools and further education colleges compete for business. It's pleasing to see that, despite that competition, there has been co-operation between some schools and Bridgend College, which has improved the range of subjects available to sixth formers.

"The primary question is which offer best suits an individual student. Some young people thrive at college, others benefit from the experience of attending both a sixth form and a college to get all their subject choices

and others get most out of the upper school experience.

"I'm glad that a variety of ideas is under consideration, including that sixth forms could be retained at the larger schools while some hub arrangement may be made for the smaller schools, with perhaps two schools being designated to provide sixth form tuition for all."

"This will be different to the no-choice approach taken by Neath Port Talbot, for example, where school sixth forms are only offered in faith and Welsh-medium schools."

She added: "I firmly believe that student choice is key to encouraging young people to stay in education or training when compulsory school attendance ends."

"The Welsh economy needs a well-educated, multi-skilled workforce, and all our young people need more ways into those opportunities, not fewer."

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fascinating images.Porthcawl, of course, has its own Inter-
Celtic festival each year in the Grand
Pavilion close to St David's Day.However, it turns out that Porthcawl
can only dream of the scale of the French
extravaganza.Glyn reported: The festival was staged
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65,000, and it was close to being full!"At Lorient, a
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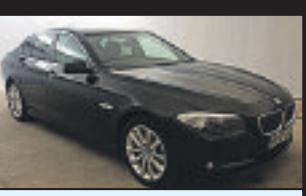
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BRYNHILL LADY GOLFERS TEE OFF ON FINALS DAY



From left, Diack final: Jan Robertson, Sue Holland, Hilary West, Olwen Thomas, Helena Coombes and Glynis Could.

RECENTLY, the eagerly-awaited 36-hole match for the crown of Brynhill ladies champion was played.

Gemma Evans, was defending her title and hoping for a hat-trick. Her opponent Shirley Lewis, who returned to the club this year, had won twice in previous years.

Ladies' captain Olwen Thomas welcomed competitors and spectators and started the match, which was refereed by Sam Pascoe.

With their caddies: Helen Cook for Gemma, Chris Hopkins for Shirley, and their almost identical handicaps, the morning match was fantastic, ending with Gemma three holes up.

After lunch, the championship resumed ahead of the 18-hole Diack Cup final. The competitors for this



From left, Championship: Chris Hopkins, Shirley Lewis, Sam Pascoe, Gemma Evans and Helen Cook.

prestigious trophy were Helen Coombes and Sue Holland together with Gemma winning her hat-trick. Gould and Jan Robertson, and the match followed the Diack finalists with flowers and was refereed by Hilary West.

With two fantastic finals, it was difficult for spectators to decide which one to follow. However, the

Everyone returned to by all. LT

BASKETBALL CLUB NETS DONATION

A VALE basketball club is delighted to have received a £750 donation from a leading housebuilder.

Vale Vipers Basketball Club, which trains in Barry and Cowbridge, has bagged the cash from Persimmon Homes East Wales as part of the company's Healthy Communities campaign.

The club said it would spend the money on equipment for its seven to 14-year-olds.

Andrew Leftley of the club said: "We're delighted to have secured this funding from Persimmon Homes."

"We are a thriving club for boys and girls aged seven to 18 with teams in the South Wales Basketball League, South West League and the Basketball England National leagues."

"This generous donation will allow us to buy new basketballs, provide playing kit and warm-up tops for match days and to repair one of our blackboards. It's great news."



The Vale Vipers.

Each month Persimmon Homes donates £750 to a sports group or individual in each of its 30 regional businesses – a total of £22,500.

At the start of 2018 finalists will be selected from the 30 areas, with an overall top national prize of £200,000 as was as runners-up awards.

Victoria Williams, Persimmon Homes sales director at kit. Persimmon Homes East Wales, said: "We're still have thousands of pounds to give away, so we'd urge sports groups and individuals to get online to apply." Applications can be made by visiting www.persimmonhomes.com/charity



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Busy times at Wenvoe Castle!

THE changeable weather failed to dampen the spirits of competitors in two major competitions held recently at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club.

The long-standing Castle Trophy is a very challenging medal competition, with best gross score taking the most prize.

The winner, Nick James, posted an excellent gross score of 70 – to win by two strokes from Liam McVeigh. Paul Wheatley picked up third place with a gross 74.

The President's Bowl, a stableford competition, is open to both Ladies and Gentlemen, attracting over 130 entries.

In a very close finish, the winner was Steve Grinter, who posted an impressive score of 41 points – beating Wayne Adams by the narrowest of margins using count back. The pair was just



Barbara Beedham and Maria Venn.



President's Bowl lady winner Helen Hughes.

one point ahead of Jonathon Ponsford, who just got home in third place – again on countback from Nick James.

The prize for the best Ladies' score went to the lady captain, Helen Hughes, who posted an impressive 37 points.

The club president, Colin Champ, thanked club members for such huge support on the day, and kindly provided superb cut glass trophies, together with an excellent buffet for the competitors.

He also thanked the bar and catering staff for their excellent service throughout a long day,

until just 16 pairs emerge to play in the grand final.

Barbara and Maria won the local final and then went on to produce the top score in the regional final held at Ross on Wye Golf Club in July – and now move on to the grand final to be held next month.

This will be played on Monday, September 18 on the prestigious Eden course at St Andrews, traditionally known as the 'home of golf'.

The finalists will enjoy two nights at the five-star Old Course Hotel Golf Resort and Spa, and the chance to participate in the Pro-Am of the Ricoh Women's British Open

Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club.

Barbara and Maria really having to pinch themselves, as they now realise the scale of their unexpected achievement and how well they have played to reach the final stages.

On behalf of all the members at their home club, the Wenvoe Castle club captain, Kota Dayananda, and lady captain, Helen Hughes, congratulated both

players on their superb performance so far, and wished them every success in the grand final.

BJ

hands and the final total of almost £1200 was raised for this very worthy charity.

Barbara and Maria reach the grand finals of major golf tournament

Barbara Beedham and Maria Venn, both members of Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, have reached the final stages in a top golf competition.

The Coronation Foursomes is one of the major competitions held each year by the R&A, and is the leading event for women's club golfers in Great Britain and Ireland.

It is open to all members of affiliated golf clubs and teams compete in both local and regional qualifying

He is assisted by his wife Marlene at their picturesque Cherry Tree Stables in the Bridgend area. Horses such as *Fairalong*, *Sigwells Club Boy* and *Senna Da Silva* kick-started his training career and their success was due to the personal touch that he gives to all his horses.

I wonder how many of my readers know that many, many years ago there used to be a racecourse in Bridgend?

The earliest meeting took place in 1838 and the final meeting on a Wednesday in 1860. The racecourse, which was shaped like a number six, was located two-and-a-half miles from Bridgend at Ogmore Downs.

The soil was very sandy and there were races over six furlongs and up to two miles and after the inaugural two-day meeting, an Ordinary was served

at the Wyndham Arms. We also know that on 'Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June the Down was studded with shows, theatre des arts, roulette tables and refreshment booths, while a grandstand towered above them all.'

An Ordinary for 50 gentleman was served at the Wyndham Arms at the end of the first day, while the second day began with a Selling Stakes which went to Mr Potter's *Table Bay* and the Commercial Visitors' Plate over a mile-and-a-half was won by Mr Melverley's *Toddy*.

The patrons of the racecourse were Lord Adare and Sir John Nicholls and the principal races were the Glamorganshire Handicap, Revival Handicap and Hack & Hunters Stakes.

If you would like to know more about this racecourse and some of the other vanished racecourses of Wales then get hold of a copy of John Slusar's 'Racecourses Here Today and Gone Tomorrow' Volume 3 Scotland and Wales. It costs just £9.99 and can be obtained by e-mailing johnwslusar@gmail.com

Or you can look up his website www.greyhoundracingderby.com. John's series of books contain a brief history of more than 1,500 former racecourses in the UK and Ireland, examining the people who brought the meetings to life, the trophies they contested, and the hotels and inns where they celebrated their successes or drowned their sorrows.

Meanwhile, please e-mail your racing news, views or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com Or phone 02920736438.

On and off the Turf with BRIAN LEE

Tale of 'Short Head Flint'

VALE trainer John Flint should be dubbed 'Short Head Flint' as whenever a horse of his figures in a photo-finish – and that seems quite often these days – they always seem to come out on top.

At Bath recently, which is one of his favourite racecourses, his *With Pleasure*, just one of two four-year-olds in the Kingstone Press Wild Berry Chase Handicap Flat race over two miles and one furlong, and worth £4,528 to the winner, got home by a head from the joint-favourite *Tyrell* with *Innoko* a further head away in third place.

There were 10 runners and *With Pleasure*, partnered by Daniel Muscutt, was returned at odds of 9-1.

Flint, who trains on the flat and over-the-sticks, is a former point-to-point owner and trainer and he started out as a permit holder in 2003.

He is assisted by his wife Marlene at their picturesque Cherry Tree Stables in the Bridgend area. Horses such as *Fairalong*, *Sigwells Club Boy* and *Senna Da Silva* kick-started his training career and their success was due to the personal touch that he gives to all his horses.

I wonder how many of my readers know that many, many years ago there used to be a racecourse in Bridgend?

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13 63 BMW 118 D Sport Plus 2dr convertible, 18"alloys, heated seats, black, full oyster leather.....£13995

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14 14 BMW M135 3.0 IM Sport 3dr (320bhp), 18"alloys, xenons, Bluetooth, white, full leather.....£16995

15 65 BMW M135 3.0 M Sport 5dr automatic, widescreen navigation, 16k, white, full leather.....£22995

14 64 BMW 218 DSE Active Tourer 5dr automatic, sat nav, park assist, heated seats, Bluetooth, 19k, silver, full leather.....£15995

12 12 BMW 320 D Sport 4dr, heated seats, cruise, silver, full leather.....£11495

13 13 BMW 320 DM Sport 2dr convertible automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, Bluetooth, BMW service inclusive, 13k, met white, full leather.....£17995

13 13 BMW 320 D Efficientdynamics 4dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18"m sport alloys, choice, full leather.....£10995

14 14 BMW 320 DM Sport GT 5dr, widescreen sat nav, cruise, pdc, heated seats, estoril blue, full leather.....£17995

14 14 BMW 320 D XDrive M Sport Estate (184bhp), 19"alloys, sat nav, cruise, 35k, estoril blue with full leather.....£16995

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14 64 BMW 430 D M Sport 2dr coupe automatic (258bhp), BMW warranty Oct 2017, sat nav, 19"alloys, 17k, estoril blue, full leather.....£22995

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14 14 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate automatic, panoramic sunroof, M sport plus pack, 19"alloys, Harman Kardon, sat nav, cruise, white, full leather.....£19995

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15 15 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), BMW warranty April 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, choice, 19k, full leather.....£19995

16 66 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr automatic 190BHP, sat nav, Bluetooth, digital cockpit, 5k, white, full leather.....£24995

15 15 BMW 535 D Sport 4dr automatic (313bhp), 19"alloys, sat nav, Harman kardon, split fold rear seats, heated seats, full leather, choice.....£22495

14 14 BMW 640 DSE 2dr convertible automatic, widescreen sat nav, 20"alloys, pdc, heated seats, 26k, white, full leather.....£27995

16 16 BMW 640 DM Sport 4dr automatic, m sport plus pack, 20"alloys, widescreen sat nav, heated seats, 6k, carbon black, full leather.....£35995

14 14 BMW 730 DM Sport 4dr automatic, sunroof, 20"alloys, sat nav, met grey, full leather.....£22995

15 15 BMW 740 Li M Sport 4dr automatic, pan roof, park assist, 20"alloys, rear DVD's, in black, full beige leather.....£44995

14 63 BMW X1 XDRIVE18D X-Line 5dr, 18"alloys, heated seats, 15k, silver, full leather.....£15495

14 14 BMW X1 XDrive 2.0 D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, pdc, 18"alloys, 21k, choice, full leather.....£15995

15 15 BMW X4 XDrive 2.0 DM Sport 5dr automatic, sunroof, electric memory seats, 19"alloys, 19k, alpine white, full ivory white leather.....£29995

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14 14 FIAT 500C 1.2 Lounge 2dr convertible Start/Stop, Bluetooth, pdc, 19k, choice with half-leather.....£7495

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15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Sport AWD 5dr Powershift, Ford warranty July 2018, pan roof, 19"alloys, 28k, black, full leather.....£18495
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15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr, appearance pack, Ford warranty March 2018, cruise, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 19k, choice, half leather.....£13495
14 63 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Business 5dr, sat nav, cruise, full leather.....£9995
15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI ECONetic Zetec Estate, Ford warranty June 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, 36k, black ..£12995
16 16 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport (X-Pack)(7-seater) Ford warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, park assist, 13k, grey, full leather.....£21995
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10 60 MERCEDES S350 CDI Blue efficiency 4dr 7-Gtronic automatic, AMG sports pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, heated seats, 59k, met white, full leather ..£17995
14 64 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 3dr, chilli + TLC pack, Bluetooth, cruise, 17"black alloys, white with black roof and mirror caps.....£10495
15 15 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCI Tekna Double Cab Pick-up 4dr, Nissan warranty April 2018, 17"alloys, heated seats, blue, full leather ..£13995+vat
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13 63 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr. M Sport Plus package, 19"alloys, sat nav, 38k, white, full leather



14 14 BMW 220 D Sport 2dr coupe, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather



15 15 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI Airdream Dstyle Plus 3dr, Citroen warranty April 2018, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, white



14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI Airdream Dstyle Plus 3dr, Citroen warranty April 2018, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, white



14 14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 T SRI 5dr (150bhp), Vauxhall warranty Feb 2019, 17"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, white ..£10995



14 14 BMW i3 eDrive 5dr automatic, sat nav, harman kardon, 21k, white



15 15 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI Titanium 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, grey



14 14 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Business Estate, sat nav, heated seats, privacy glass, black



15 15 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Zetec S 5dr, Ford warranty July 2018, sat nav, Bluetooth, 23k, white



15 15 NISSAN NOTE 1.2 N-Tec 5dr, Nissan warranty July 2019, sat nav, cruise, rev camera, 7k, met red



09 59 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, 17k, blue



15 15 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S 3dr, Bluetooth, USB, alloys, cruise, 15k, copper



17 17 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 Estate ISG, Kia warranty April 2024, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 492 miles, black



14 14 BMW 420 D M Sport 2dr coupe automatic, sat nav, xenons, 34k, estoril blue, full leather



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- 63 MERCEDES C220 CDI Executive SE Blue Efficiency Estate In met-grey, 82,000 miles with sat-nav £10,995
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- 65 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner £8,695
- 62 HYUNDAI i40 Blue Drive Style 1.6 CRDi Estate In met blue, 57,000 mile, £30 road tax £8,495
- 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 Style met blue/grey roof, 15,000 miles, 1 owner, fantastic example £7,995
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- 13 SKODA Octavia 1.2 TSi 3-Dr In blue, 54,000 miles, 1 owner, fantastic MPG £7,995
- 13 MINI 1.6 Diesel Cooper D In black, 35,000 miles, with a/c, alloys etc £7,995
- 62 FORD B-Max 1.6 Titanium Automatic In met blue, 27,000 miles £7,995
- 10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec Automatic In black, 68,000 miles, diesel 7-seater REDUCED TO £7,995
- 15 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SRi Ecoflex 3-Dr In black, 23,000 miles £7,495
- 13 MINI One 1.6 In red, 31,000 miles, 1 owner with alloys, climate, pepper pack REDUCED TO £7,495
- 57 MERCEDES SLK 200 Kompressor Auto In silver/red leather, 78,000 miles, convertible £7,495
- 64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner REDUCED TO £6,995
- 14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc REDUCED BY £700 TO £6,995
- 63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encore met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax £6,995
- 13 PEUGEOT 3008 Aless HDi 5-Dr In met red, 29,000 mile REDUCED TO £6,995
- 63 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Coupe 'Knight Edition' 40,000 miles, free road tax £6,995
- 63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax £6,995
- 12 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 1.6 TDI 'S' BlueMotion Tech 6-speed Estate In black, 80,000 miles £6,995
- 09 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 TDI (140) GT 5-Dr In black, 49,000 miles, superb example £6,995
- 13 SKODA Octavia 1.6 Diesel TDI SE Estate In silver, 70,000 miles, £30 road tax £6,495
- 62 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr In silver, 46,000 mile family hatch £6,495

- 62 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 5-Dr In black, 45,000 miles, diesel £6,495
- 11 NISSAN Juke 1.6 Acenta In met bronze, 62,000 miles 2 owners £6,495
- 64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ2 5-Dr In white, 11,000 miles from new £5,995
- 64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax REDUCED TO £5,995
- 11 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI CR Sport 5-Dr In silver, 45,000 miles £5,995
- 13 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 'Media Nav' 5-Dr In silver, low running costs £5,695
- 61 SKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI 5-Dr Elegance In met-grey, 68,000 mile diesel hatch £5,695
- 62 SKODA Fabia 1.6 TDI CR 5-Dr Monte Carlo In white with black roof and wheels, 76,000 miles £5,495
- 11 CITROEN C4 Exclusive HDi 5-Dr In met red, 53,000 mile, new shape diesel £5,495
- 59 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr In hot magenta, 48,000 miles, full leather trim £5,495
- 11 FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Titanium Sport In hot magenta, 56,000 miles, 1 owner with leather seats £4,995
- 61 SKODA Fabia 1.4 SE 5-Dr In red, 62,000 miles, 1 owner £4,995
- 60 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In black, 49,000 miles, local car £4,995
- 59 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite Nav In met-burgundy/cream leather, 1 owner, 85,000 mile diesel £4,995
- 10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In silver, 47,000 mile, £20 road tax £4,695
- 09 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Titanium 3-Dr In jupiter red, 60,000 mile, high spec model £4,695
- 13 PEUGEOT 107 Active 1.0 5-Dr In silver, 41,000 miles, a/c etc 'free road tax' £4,495
- 61 HYUNDAI i20 Comfort 5-Dr In met-grey, 33,000 miles, £30 road tax £4,495
- 61 RENAULT Clio GT Tom Tom 1.5 DCi Estate In met-grey, 76,000 miles diesel £4,495
- 11 HYUNDAI i30 Comfort 1.6 CRDI 5-Dr In met-burgundy, 69,000 mile diesel hatch £4,495
- 60 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 5-Dr In met-blue, 65,000 miles, low insurance £4,495
- 10 CITROEN C3 Aircream 5-Dr 1.6 Diesel In silver, 67,000 miles, free road tax £4,495
- 58 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge In silver, 33,000 miles, with glass roof, a/c etc £4,495
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- 59 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 S 5-Dr In red, 48,000 miles, 1 owner, low insurance £3,795
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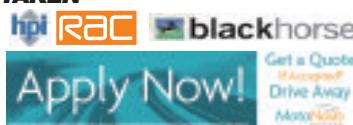


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Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

THE Vale of Glamorgan AFL returned with a bang, as we got 64 goals scored across the three divisions.

A lot has changed during the close season - some clubs have folded, new clubs have come in and most notably the Premier Division is streamlined to seven teams that will play each other three times and it's Premier Division where we begin.

AF C Rhosne got off to a flyer in what could have been a tricky opener away at the Bear Field, but an impressive 5-2 victory against Cowbridge Town means a great start to the campaign.

Meanwhile, Barry Athletic edged out St Athan 1-0 in hotly contested game and Penarth Town secured an opening day three points as they downed Island Marine 2-0.

In Division One, two of the newly promoted sides faced off with Barry Saints coming out on top against Cadotxton Imps 4-2.

Cogan Coronation and Cardiff Airport played out an entertaining 3-3 draw while SP Bally put six past Cadotxton season game.

Unfortunately, because of inclement weather, the captain's prize weekend had to be split this year - the Saturday competition being held on July 29 and the Sunday event on August 13.

In spite of this, the event was extremely well supported, with 112 golfers playing in the Saturday competition and 117 on the Sunday. The results were as follows:

Best net, Saturday - Chris Evans with a score of 66; best gross - Matt Little (74). Best net, Sunday - Neil Bennett with a score of 68; best gross - Dan Peters (75).

However, over the two days the overall winners were Gary Wiltshire with a net score of 134, and Scott Bowman with a gross total of 138 - congratulations to all!

To conclude the



events, captain Mike Underdown hosted a gala dinner on Friday, August 18, which was a sellout. All who attended were treated to an excellent five-course meal prepared by chef Mark Dummett, followed by a full evening's entertainment.

The photographs show Gary Wiltshire (top, in the red shirt) and Scott Bowman (above), who received their prizes from club captain Mike Underdown.

KERRY BAKER, teacher at Ysgol y Deri, Penarth, who enjoys stand-up paddleboarding in her spare time, has qualified for the Welsh team and will now represent Wales at the ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championship in Vorupor and Copenhagen, Denmark, between September 1-10.

Kerry has been stand-up paddleboarding since 2010, but it was during a school charity paddle from The Mumbles, Swansea to Penarth Pier during 2013, that she gained an interest in distance paddling and began racing during 2014.

During her time at Ysgol y Deri, Kerry has worked closely with colleague Dan Willmore to develop an interventions programme that enables pupils to experience surf, stand up paddleboarding and beach school sessions.

It has two routes - 'The Surf Experience' and 'Coastal Connections'. Dan directs the water-based side of the programme and Kerry the beach school sessions. The programme is now entering its seventh year and continues to change the lives of pupils at the school.

In reply, Barry reached their target with 14 balls to spare with 186 for 7, Morgan scoring another 'not out' with 56 - and captain for the day, Shah Ellis, hitting 37 as Barry ran out winners by three wickets.

Meanwhile, on the Island, Barry Athletic second XI entertained Dinas Powys with a delayed start and after



experiences. It has a pupils confidence to try continuously surprise me direct impact on the way new things in their lives; and make me extremely a person feels, it boosts things that they may proud." otherwise have not been For more information, you can visit

Dan said: "Every week, throughout the school year our young people kit up and get on

championship-wsuppc1. KB

Athletic teams' valuable wins

ON Saturday, Barry Athletic first XI travelled to Ebbw Vale to face the bottom side, and came away with a valuable 18 point win.

Winning the toss, Barry Athletic asked their hosts to bat first and Ebbw Vale reached 184 for 9 in their 50 overs with Anwar (3-25), S.Ellis (2-12) and A.Ellis (2 for 28) being the main wicket takers, with Nick Pepper jnr being top score with 67.

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Barry Athletic Cricket Club will be holding a carboot sale on Sunday, September 24, at the ground from 8am, limited to 50 cars.

MR

'Get Home Now' lands hurdle

'Get Home Now', a winner at Worcester last month, owned by the Vale's Gwyn Brace and his daughter Jayne, landed the closing handicap hurdle over two miles and three furlongs at Fontwell last Thursday.

'Get Home Now', who was followed home by 'Ramore Hill', was returned at odds of 7-2.

At the Chepstow evening meeting, Bargoed's David Probert won the opener on the well-backed favourite 'Shepherd Market'.

Nine-year-old 'Get

BRIAN LEE

Barrivale results

THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club for the August 15:

The top three places were: 1. Mike Close & Peter Millar 61.90%; 2. Mike Best & Jenny Vaughan 58.73%; 3. Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 53.97%.

The handicap first place winners were Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick.

As always, new members are welcome at Barrivale bridge club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446



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Porthcawl RFC prepare for the new season with an impressive friendly victory

WITH the new season looming, and following the previous week's emphatic 31-6 win against Division 3 East Central A side Treharris, Porthcawl welcomed Division One East side Blaenavon to South Road.

The club that produced the likes of Wales hardmen Ray Prosser and John Perkins was bound to provide a stern test and the match turned out to be one of excellent quality and great entertainment for a large crowd.

The die was cast early, with visiting prop Owen Howells, a veritable giant of a man, scattering home defenders as he mowed his way through for a super try from 30 metres inside five minutes, goaled by fly-half Darren Pearce.

Porthcawl knew that they would have to match a superbly co-ordinated Blaenavon pack if they were to have any chance of a result.

They stepped up to the challenge impressively, as they more than matched their rivals upfront throughout the match, often making headway at the scrums. When flanker Dan Forrester drove over for a try from a driving maul for 5-7, it was certainly game on, despite Scott Govan's conversion into a strong wind being held up short.

No.8 Tom Butcher showed his early season mettle by charging at the visitors' defence with aplomb and purpose whenever the opportunity allowed and he showed great vision



Jake Thomas with the ball and Jonathan Phillips in support.

ALL PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

to changed direction and skip to the blind side to score fine unconverted corner try to put Porthcawl ahead at 10-7 on 24 minutes.

Blaenavon proved that they could rise to this challenge by using quick possession for centre Tom Phillips to put in a strong run for a fine try, again converted by Pearce for 10-14.

However, the Porthcawl backs, again profiting from good ball from a rampant pack, saw a brilliant 50-metre break through midfield from fly-half Jon Phillips. His deft inside pass set up the perfect chance for centre Gareth Rees to fly over for a terrific try at the posts.

Porthcawl seconds played a friendly against Cowbridge, who proved to be the victors on the day, despite a spirited performance from the home side.

However, the team under new skipper James Burge-Davies – is pleased to be back in the second XV league after a few seasons, and will welcome Kenfig Hill on September 2, for what should prove to be an entertaining affair.

It took fully 70 minutes to elapse before Porthcawl grabbed what would be the crucial

PAUL FIELDING

score to put the match beyond their illustrious opponents.

Again, it was the Porthcawl pack, with skipper Richard Hnyda and hooker Jack Williams particularly prominent, that again found the power and approach work to drive Blaenavon back to their own 22 in the final 10 minutes.

From another great Porthcawl drive, Forrester popped up for his second try – to make it 22-14 – Blaenavon failing to get back on terms, leaving the home side with a very fine victory that bodes well for the new league season.

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PAUL FIELDING

200 not out for Porthcawl runner Mike!



PORTHCAWL runner Mike Davies was a proud man after completing his 200th Parkrun last Saturday.

It's quite an achievement for the 59-year-old veteran, who only took up running a little over four years ago.

The Parkrun in Porthcawl was a little over two months old when Davies ran in his first one back on June 15, 2013 – clocking 32 minutes 36 seconds.

He went on to rack up six personal best times in eight races over the next two months, knocking a staggering nine minutes plus off his time.

His best came in his 61st run back on September 20, 2014, a time of 22:45 which is still his fastest time – while his average over all 200 Parkruns – all of which have been at Porthcawl – is a highly respectable 26:50.

Davies, who was invited to join the South Road-based Runners a friend in 2014, has ran in 200 of the 229 stagings of the Porthcawl Parkrun since it started back on April

6, 2013. On what first inspired him to take up running, Davies recalled: "I'd already given up playing football and was looking for something to do on my own."

"I watched people doing the Parkrun on a Saturday morning and it really inspired me."

Looking back on his very first Parkrun, he said: "I almost didn't make it to the end. I struggled to start with and had to walk some of it as well."

"I hadn't really trained to do a Parkrun and I remember going out with my son the night before it and I think I managed to pull a hamstring or something."

But, after finishing and then 199 Parkruns later, painter and decorator Davies – affectionally known as 'Taxi Mike' because of his second job as a cab driver – has no plans to stop pounding the pavements any time soon.

And, as he heads towards another magic milestone in turning 60, it looks like there's plenty of petrol left in Taxi Mike's tank!

CF

Porthcawl Bridge Club news

THE club recently held a fundraising event for victims of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

The event was part of a UK-wide Simultaneous Pairs, in which all participating clubs play the same hands, and results are scored centrally. Nationwide 601 pairs competed across 39 clubs.

The highest nationally placed Porthcawl pair was Rob and John with 60 per cent. Clubs were expected to donate their normal money to the fund, with Porthcawl donating a total of £300 from table monies, raffle, and sales of 'home produce' donated by members.

Other club results were as follows: Saturday, August 5: first – Roger Draper and Tony Haworth; second –

Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, August 10 Grenfell Towers Simultaneous Pairs: first – Dil and Marian Evans; second – Rob Charlesworth and John Beard.

Saturday August 12: first – Trish Saunders and Janet Richards; second – John Beard and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, August 17: first – Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second – Tony Haworth and Keith Davison.

The club meets twice a week, on Saturday and Thursday at the Avel-Y-Mor centre, 6.45pm – 9.45pm.

Visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH

and Rob Charlesworth; Third, Mike Best and David Birt. The winners on handicap were Irene Thomas and Graham Jones.

Thursday, August 17: First, Dennis Stevens and Steve Burgoyne; Second, John Henson and Chris Rawlings; Third, Marjorie Halley and Sheila Gass. The winners on handicap were John Henson and Chris Rawlings.

Friday, August 18: First, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner; Second, Simon Richards and Debbie Richards; Third, Jenny Vaughan and Liam Sheridan. The winners on handicap were Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Norton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start

These valuable runs meant that Darren Upham faced the final ball of the game needing three to win.

Upham's first and only ball was sent cascading for a boundary six, as Vale went about celebrating an exciting win!

Vale first XI now finish their season with two back-to-back home games in Corntown, where they will entertain Monmouth, followed by Pontymister and Cross Keys. They will be hoping for good results as they go about trying to finish as high up the league table as they can.

HW SECONDS TOO GOOD FOR EBBW VALE

Meanwhile, in Corntown, the seconds entertained Ebbw Vale, the team that earlier in the season won in a high-scoring game at Eugene Cross Park.

Mark Francis stood out with a century in that game, and although less fluent this weekend, led the Vale batting with an unbeaten 88, after the home side had been asked to bat.

After skipper Carl Brooks and opening partner Gareth Andrews raced off at six and over, only for both to be dismissed caught behind for 11 and 13 respectively, Francis, initially with Steve Hiles (11) found timing difficult on a slowish pitch.

Joined by the (significantly) becapped Paul Sheppard, the third wicket pair added 131, before Sheppard was caught at cover for 60. Vale reached tea with a total of 217 for 4.

After a great spread provided by Vale Catering, the home side took the field, opening up with 14-year-old twins Idris and Gethin Merry.

Earlier in the day, the pair had been presented with club sweaters to commemorate their debuts for the first team during the season.

They bowled frugally, restricting the visitors, allowing left-arm spinner Glynn Jones (4-23) and seamer Tom Lazarus (3-32) to work through the opposition line-up.

Only skipper Simon Keane stood out for Ebbw Vale, carrying his bat for a masterly 58 in the eventual total of 115 all out.

CB

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

RECENT results at Bridgend Bridge Club were:

Wednesday, August 16: First, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; Second, Tony Haworth

CF

at 7pm, to enable a prompt start it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Norton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

There will be a new series of lessons for beginners on Wednesdays from 4pm until 6pm starting on September 13, again in Norton Church Hall.

For further information about the lessons, and any other club activities, please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372, or David Newman on 01656 649138.

GW